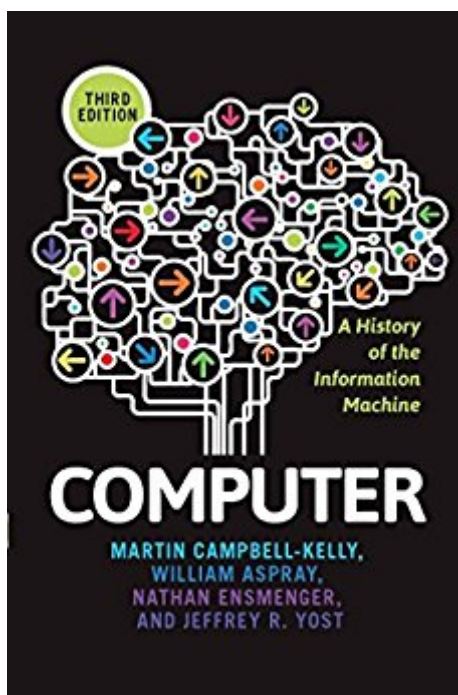


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Computer: A History Of The Information Machine (The Sloan Technology Series)



Synopsis

Computer: A History of the Information Machine traces the history of the computer and shows how business and government were the first to explore its unlimited, information-processing potential. Old-fashioned entrepreneurship combined with scientific know-how inspired now famous computer engineers to create the technology that became IBM. Wartime needs drove the giant ENIAC, the first fully electronic computer. Later, the PC enabled modes of computing that liberated people from room-sized, mainframe computers. This third edition provides updated analysis on software and computer networking, including new material on the programming profession, social networking, and mobile computing. It expands its focus on the IT industry with fresh discussion on the rise of Google and Facebook as well as how powerful applications are changing the way we work, consume, learn, and socialize. Computer is an insightful look at the pace of technological advancement and the seamless way computers are integrated into the modern world. Through comprehensive history and accessible writing, Computer is perfect for courses on computer history, technology history, and information and society, as well as a range of courses in the fields of computer science, communications, sociology, and management.

Book Information

File Size: 3742 KB

Print Length: 378 pages

Publisher: Westview Press; 3 edition (July 9, 2013)

Publication Date: July 9, 2013

Sold by: Hachette Book Group

Language: English

ISBN-10: 081334591X

ISBN-13: 978-0813345918

ASIN: B00BAH8HU2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #432,391 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #223

in Books > Computers & Technology > History & Culture > History #507 in Kindle Store > Kindle

eBooks > Computers & Technology > Programming > Software Design > Software Development
#1825 in Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Software Design, Testing &
Engineering > Software Development

Customer Reviews

Review of Campbell-Kelly et al.'s "Computer" by Paul F. Ross Prompted by a biography of Gordon Moore, recently published (Thackray et al, 2015) and recently read, to read more about the history of the computer, Campbell-Kelly's history (2014) came to my attention. I had just read Ceruzzi's history (2003), posting my review on .com along with others' reviews of Ceruzzi and other reviews of mine covering other titles referenced here. These four authors are

Campbell-Kelly, Martin, Aspray, William, Ensmenger, Nathan, and Yost, Jeffrey R.

"Computer: A history of the information machine" 2014, Third Edition, Westview Press, Boulder CO, xv + 360

pages

employed by universities, Campbell-Kelly by the University of Warwick, Aspray by the University of Texas, Ensmenger by the University of Indiana, and Yost by the University of Minnesota. They work in the parts of the world's economies. Their history is interesting, worth reading. However, as with Ceruzzi's history, I'm left with some important reservations. The strength of this work is that it examines (in turn) first the purpose of computing, then reviews how computing machinery has entered the activity. This, indeed, is horse before the cart, seeing first the social and economic purpose for the human activity, then examining how computing machinery entered the scene. The approach is to be applauded and, for this reader, is an important improvement on Ceruzzi's history (2003). Very often the entrance of computing machinery has transformed the original activity.

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