

## August 8th

### Leo Fantl

**Born: Aug. 8, 1924;**

Teptliz Schoenau,  
Czechoslovakia  
Died: November 11, 2000

After WWII, Fantl went to work at J. Lyons (the tea company) in the Planning Department, and became a member of the LEO (Lyons Electronic Office) [Sept 5] team in 1950. He was involved in many areas of LEO I's programming, including ballistics and weather forecasting, and wrote the first program to calculate PAYE tax. His payroll system became a mainstay of many UK firms, including Kodak, the sugar refineries of Tate and Lyle, and Stewarts and Lloyds steel works (later British Steel). As a consequence, Fantl is often called the father of business computing.

It's a pure coincidence that Fantl's first name and the computer's are the same. John Simmons [March 18], LEO I's chief developer, suggested its name.

### Bruce Artwick

**Born: Aug. 8, 1953;**

Norridge, Illinois

Artwick wrote the first consumer flight simulator, based on code from his 1976 Masters thesis ("A versatile computer generated dynamic light display"), which included a 3D model aircraft example. This was by no means the first flight simulator, which was probably written by Danny Cohen [April 18] back in 1967.

In 1978 Artwick and Stu Moment founded SubLOGIC to develop graphics software for the 6800 [March 7], 8080 [April 18], and other processors, and released the A2FS1 flight simulator for the Apple II [June 5] in Jan. 1980. It only supported black and white wireframe

graphics, limited scenery, and one aircraft, but became one of the most popular Apple II applications of the early 1980s.

The software was purchased by Microsoft in 1982 and became version 1 of its Flight Simulator [Nov 00]. In 2000, the Guinness Book of Records recorded that it had sold a record 21 million copies.

### Sky Dylan Dayton

**Born: Aug. 8, 1971;**

New York City

In 1994 Dayton founded the EarthLink ISP after becoming frustrated with how hard it was to connect his Mac to the Internet. The company reached an agreement with UUNET [May 12] in 1995 to provide a nationwide service, and by 1996 was growing at a rate of 5-10% a week. A partnership with Apple in 1998 saw EarthLink become the default ISP for the iMac [May 6], and later Apple invested \$200 million in the company.

Dayton is a surfer and pilot rated to fly jets. Prior to EarthLink, he ran a popular coffee shop in West Hollywood called Mocha Gallery (later Cafe Mocha).

### Community Memory

**Aug. 8, 1973**

Community Memory, the first public bulletin board system (BBS), was set up by Efrem Lipkin, Mark Szpakowski, and Lee Felsenstein [April 27] - Felsenstein took care of hardware, Lipkin software, and Szpakowski the user interface.

It ran on a Scientific Data Systems SDS 940 [Nov 30] located at Resource One [June 1] in San Francisco. The first terminal, an ASR-33 teletype [April 00], was installed on this day at the top of the stairs leading to Leopold's Records in Berkeley.

The line from Berkeley to San Francisco ran at just 110 baud (10 characters per second) but was cheap. The modem was linked to the Oakland exchange which was within the local calling range of San Francisco, so the running cost of the phone link was treated as a (very lengthy) single local call.

The software allowed a user to leave a message labelled with keywords, and other people could find messages by keyword search. The application employed the ROGIRS keyword information retrieval system written by Bart Berger and John M. Cooney at Resource One.

The teletype was quite noisy, so was placed in a sturdy cardboard box, with a transparent plastic top so a user could see what was being



Community Memory terminal at Leopold's Records, CC BY-SA 2.5.

printed. The box also conveniently included two hand holes to reach the keyboard.

The help system consisted of a poster stuck above the terminal, drawn in the standard 1960's psychedelic style.

### The Dirty Dozen's Prototype

**Aug. 8, 1980**

William Lowe [Jan 15], head of IBM's Entry Level Systems IBU (Independent Business Unit) in Boca Raton, presented a PC prototype to the company's Corporate Management committee. It had been built in

just 30 days by his team, nicknamed the Dirty Dozen, who were (probably):

- Philip D. (Don) Estridge [June 23]: team head, after Lowe's promotion to IBM Vice Presidency;
- David J. Bradley [Jan 4]: systems architect;
- Lewis C. Eggebrecht: chief architect, and later the author of the popular 1982 book, "Interfacing to the IBM PC";
- David O'Connor: architectural design;
- Bill Sydnes: lead engineer;
- Mark Dean [March 2]: senior engineer; first African-American to become an IBM Fellow;
- Dennis Moeller: worked with Dean on the system bus;
- Jack Sams: in charge of software development;
- Mel Hallerman: senior programmer;
- Peter J. Stearns: software;
- Dennis Gibb: software;
- John Rue: software;
- Joe Bauman: business and manufacturing planning;
- H. L. Sparks: marketing, communications, sales and service.

There are more than 12 people (14) here, since I couldn't find a definitive list.

The prototype had 32 KB of ROM, 16 KB of RAM (expandable to 256 KB), six expansion slots, a color/mono display, an eight-inch floppy disk drive, an optional floating-point processor, a joystick port, and a printer port.

The prototype barely worked but Lowe did possess a detailed business plan. It proposed that the computer have an open architecture, use non-proprietary components and software, and be sold through retail stores – all suggestions that ran contrary to standard IBM practice of the time.

In mid October [Oct 20], the committee approved Lowe's plan, and changed the team's name to "Project Chess". The outcome would be the IBM PC [Aug 12].

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## SussexPolice

### Aug. 8, 2008

A UK police leaflet asking people to help clean up their neighborhood accidentally directed them to a porn website.

Instead of linking to <http://www.sussex.police.uk>, the flyer directed residents to <http://www.sussexpolice.co.uk>, which specialized in strippers dressed as policemen and gay law enforcement movies (e.g. "Truncheon Meat").



Sussex Police at Brighton Pride 2013. Photo by vic\_burton. CC BY-SA 2.0.