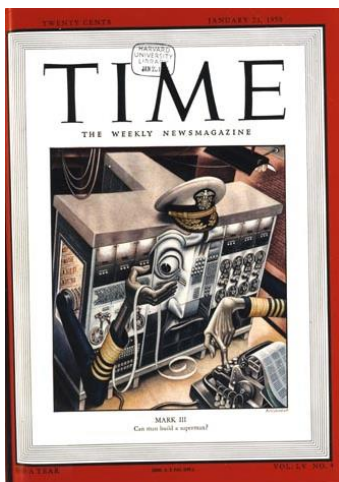


Jan. 23rd

TIME's Harvard Mark III

Jan. 23, 1950

Today's cover of TIME magazine is a beautiful drawing by Boris Artzybasheff depicting the Harvard Mark III as a mechanical Naval officer (complete with cap and stripes). The caption reads, "Mark III. Can Man Build a Superman?"



TIME Magazine cover with Harvard Mark III, drawn BY Boris Artzybasheff. (c) TIME/LIFE.

The cover story was entitled "The Thinking Machine," and included an early use of the word "computer" applied to machines rather than people [May 00]. TIME's previous excursion into computing, a review of Norbert Wiener's book "Cybernetics," [Nov 26] in Dec. 1948 referred to the machines as calculators.

As the title might suggest, the article spent some time discussing "psychotic robots", Capek's R.U.R [Jan 25], peppered with amusing quotes from Howard Aiken [March 8], Norbert Wiener, Robert Seeber [Jan 27], and Claude Shannon [April 30].

The Mark III, also known as the ADEC (Aiken Dahlgren Electronic Calculator), was built

at Harvard under Howard Aiken's supervision, and delivered to the US Navy base at Dahlgren (hence the 'D' in ADEC) Virginia in March 1950. It was around 250 times faster than the Mark I [Aug 7].

Artzybasheff also drew the TIME cover featuring Thomas Watson, Jr. [Jan 14], IBM's president (March 28, 1955), which was captioned: "Clink. Clank. Think".

AppleTalk

Jan. 23, 1985

Apple was looking for a way to allow the Macintosh [Jan 24] and Lisa [Jan 19] to share a LaserWriter [March 1] which by itself cost almost as much as an entire Mac. The solution was the AppleBus network, announced in early 1984. Macs and Lisas were connected through their serial ports to small boxes that linked into the network. There were also adapters for the Apple II [June 5] and Apple III [May 19].

AppleBus had been developed by Gursharan S. Sidhu and his team after the cancellation of a Lisa-based networking project called AppleNet. Just prior to AppleBus' release on this day, it was renamed AppleTalk.

An AppleTalk adapter box sold for just \$50 (but cabling was extra). By contrast, other network solutions, such as Ethernet [May 22] and Token Ring cards, cost hundreds or thousands of dollars. Also, AppleTalk allowed a LAN to be built with no centralized router or server.

The entire networking stack required only about 6 KB of RAM on a machine, and the software was designed to cleanly separate the stack's physical layer from higher levels. This let AppleTalk be easily ported to different physical media other than AppleTalk cabling, including ordinary (and cheaper) telephone wiring.

Of course, the system had a few limitations, including a transfer

rate of just 230 Kbit/s, a maximum range of 1,000 feet, and support for at most 32 nodes per LAN. In later versions, its speed and maximum number of nodes were greatly increased.

AppleTalk was the primary networking protocol for Apple devices throughout the 1980's. However, the rise of TCP/IP [Sept 9] in the 1990's led to its demise, and Mac OS X [March 24] stopped supporting it in 2009.

First Blog

Jan. 23, 1994

Justin Hall, a student at Swarthmore College, began a web-based diary called "Justin's Links from the Underground".

The site grew in popularity because of Hall's flair for finding fun corners of the new Web. He also started including personal stories, and on Jan. 10 1995 began adding date-stamped journal entries. This change in emphasis led *The New York Times Magazine* to later call him "the founding father of personal bloggers".

Alternatively, the first online diary might be Claudio Pinhanez's "Open Diary", which was published on the MIT Media Lab website from Nov. 14, 1994 until 1996. There's also Carolyn Burke, who started writing "Carolyn's Diary" on Jan. 3, 1995. Another possible first blog is David Winer's [May 2] "Scripting News", which started in April 1997. He modified the way entries were displayed on the page so that only the last ten days of posts were visible. Yet another claimant is Ian Ring's SixDegrees.com, which also began in [Dec 00]1997.

The term "weblog" was first utilized by Jorn Barger on [Dec 17] 1997. The short form, "blog," is due to Peter Merholz.

If we relax the definition of blog to not require the Web, then any number of USENET [Jan 29] forums and BBS [Feb 16] communities could be classified as first.

JDK 1.0

Jan. 23, 1996

Prev: [May 23](#)

Java was becoming increasingly popular because of its support by the Netscape browser [Sept 18](#), and the portability of Java applications across OSes. However, it was also true that the alpha and beta releases of the Java Development Kit (JDK), were buggy and slow.

This day saw the release of JDK 1.0 which started to fix some of the more glaring deficiencies, but it took several years for Java's reputation to be fully rehabilitated.

Versions 1.1 (1997) and 1.2 (1998) saw drastic changes to the GUI and graphical parts of the API, and the size and scope of the APIs and the number of developer tools has kept increasing over the years.

Version 1.4 (2002) introduced the Java Community Process (JCP) and Java Specification Requests (JSRs) to propose and specify additions and changes to Java.

Version 1.5 (aka Version 5; 2005) added a rather weak form of generics and much-needed concurrency utilities; version 7 (2011) extended the JVM so it could act as a platform for a wider range of languages. Version 8 (2015) discovered functional programming [April 8](#), adding lambda expressions, and version 9 (2017) added modules. Version 15 was released in Sept. 2020.

Mozilla

Jan. 23, 1998

Netscape Communications [March 25](#) created the Mozilla Organization (mozilla.org) to coordinate the development of the Mozilla Suite.

"Mozilla", a mix of "Mosaic" and "Godzilla", had been the original codename of the Netscape

Navigator browser, and Jamie Zawinski [Nov 3](#) is credited with inventing the name.

"Mosaic" was the name of the browser put out by National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) [Sept 16](#), which had spawned Netscape Communications.

Of course, Godzilla is a giant sea monster first seen in a series of Japanese movies in 1954. According to one story, the "Godzilla" (Gojira) name was originally the nickname of a tubby stagehand at Toho Studios.

The Mozilla Suite was composed of several programs: Navigator (the browser), Communicator (mail and newsgroups), Composer (for writing web pages), ChatZilla (an IRC client), and an electronic address book. Much of the suite was coded from scratch, which is why version 1.0 didn't arrive until June 5, 2002. But one long term benefit of the rewrite was the creation of the Gecko layout engine, which was later utilized by Firefox [Nov 9](#) and Thunderbird [Dec 7](#).

On July 15 2003, the organization became the Mozilla Foundation, signaling that Netscape Communications' parent company, AOL, was scaling back its involvement. Netscape had been bought by AOL on [March 17](#) 1999.

Before leaving, AOL transferred its hardware and intellectual property rights to the foundation, and paid a three-person team to help with the transition for three months. It also donated \$2 million to the foundation over the next two years.

August 3, 2005 saw another new name: the Mozilla Corporation, this time to skirt legal issues with the foundation being a non-profit organization.

The Mozilla Suite's last release was in April 2006, as the group shifted its focus to the development of Firefox and Thunderbird. The suite was open sourced, renamed SeaMonkey, and its management

was taken over by the SeaMonkey Council. Bearing in mind the historic record, perhaps it should have been called "SeaMonster"?
