# July 18th

## IBM 1001 Released

### July 18, 1960

The IBM 1001 Data Transmission System could send data read from punched cards via a modem and phone line. An IBM card punch equipped with a data translator at the other end of the line could read the incoming data and print it to a new card.

Electrical transmission of punched card data had actually been invented way back in the 1930s by Joseph C. Bolt and Curt I. Johnson, and IBM had acquired the rights to their "Radiotype" technology, and used it to connect IBM electric typewriters via radio. Radiotype was used extensively by the US military during WWII.

However, the 1001 used a new transmission protocol, STR (Synchronous Transmit Receive), which meant that data could be reliably transferred across voice grade telephone lines. The need for a fast modem prompted Bell labs to release the Bell 103 [June 26] in 1962.

The 1001 was superseded within a year by the IBM 1013 which transmitted data at a rate of 100 cards per minute.

## Intel Founded

### July 18, 1968

Gordon Moore [Jan 3], and Robert Noyce [Dec 12] founded N M Electronics (Noyce and Moore) in Santa Clara. They had rejected the name “Moore Noyce” since it sounded too much like “more noise”, a poor choice for an electronics company. In any case, the name would soon change, to Intel, a combination of “integrated” and “electronics,” suggested by Noyce’s daughter.

Intel’s original business plan ran to just three paragraphs, but it was enough to secure $2.5 million to get the company started. At that point, Andy Grove [Sept 2] joined as the first hire.

The company released its first product in April 1969, the Intel 3101, a 64-bit RAM chip and the first commercial, practical memory device. This was followed in July by the Intel 1101 – a 256-bit SRAM device. It was produced with silicon gate MOS (Metal Oxide Semiconductor) technology, which made large scale integration on the chip possible for the first time.

Andy Grove holds an advertisement for the Intel 3101 (1969). Intel Free Press. CC BY-SA 2.0.

Intel's many, many other highlights include:

- [Oct 00] 1970: the Intel 1103: the first DRAM chip;
- [Sept 00] 1971: the Intel 1702: the first EPROM chip;
- [Nov 15] 1971: the Intel 4004, a 4-bit microprocessor intended for calculators;
- [April 00] 1972: the Intel 8008: first 8-bit microprocessor;
- [April 18] 1974: the Intel 8080;
- [June 8] 1978: the Intel 8086 16-bit microprocessor, which became an industry standard;
- [Feb 1] 1982: Intel 80286;
- [Oct 17] 1985: Intel 80386DX, a 32-bit chip;
- [April 10] 1989: Intel 80486;
- [March 22] 1993: the Pentium processor, which featured an integrated FPU, and a nasty bug [Oct 30];
- [Feb 26] 1999: Pentium III, with faster floating point and parallel calculations;
- [Nov 20] 2000: Pentium 4.

In the 2000s, growth slowed a little, as competitors, such as AMD [May 1], grabbed market share, and the company was caught a little flat-footed by the rise of smart phones.

## Basic Telecoms

### July 18, 1984

“BIOC Agent 003” uploaded his “The Course in Basic Telecommunications Part I” to several BBSs. The document, which explained the inner workings of the Bell telephone system, would eventually run to seven parts, and become one of the famous "phreak" documents [Oct 00] of the 1980s.

Famous phreaks of the 1960s and 1970s were Ralph Barclay [March 20], Joe Engressia [May 25], Cap’n Crunch (John Draper) [March 11], and (a little later) Steve Wozniak [Oct 17].

## First Web Image

### July 18, 1992

Probably the first image posted to the Web was a photograph of "Les Horribles Cernettes", an all-female parody pop group from CERN [Sept 29]. They were led by Michele de Gennaro, a bilingual secretary, whose then-boyfriend, Silvano de Gennaro, was an IT developer at the center. Some years later he wrote: “After their show at the CERN Hardronic Festival, my colleague Tim Berners-Lee [June 8] asked me for a few scanned

photos of the CERN girls to publish them on some sort of information system he had just invented, called the “World Wide Web” [Dec 20]."

De Gennaro snapped the picture on this day, with a Canon EOS 650.


Les Horribles Cernettes. Photo by Silvano de Gennaro.

However De Genarro has never claimed this was the first picture on the Web, and in 1999, Wired magazine [Jan 2] stated that it was only "among the first five pictures published on the web.”

## Fenasoft Peaks

### July 18-21, 1995

The largest ever computer show was not COMDEX [Dec 3] or CeBIT [March 12], but Fenasoft, held in the 68,000 square meter Anhembi exhibit hall in São Paulo, Brazil. (Fenasoft is the contraction of "National Software Show" in Portuguese).

Maximiano A. Goncalves, the president and chief executive officer of the show, said that the event attracted 800,000 people in 1995, and perhaps 1 million in 1996. By comparison, a mere 500,000 folks attended CeBIT in Hanover in March 1995, and an inconsequential 225,000 visited the 1995 COMDEX in Las Vegas.

Fenasoft was so popular because it could draw upon the 17 million inhabitants of São Paulo, the world’s third-largest city, and the economic capital of South America. Also, unlike shows such as COMDEX, which were restricted to the computer trade and corporate buyers, anyone willing to pay the admission fee of $60 could attend.

## First Blu-ray Rewritable Drive

### July 18, 2006

The BWU-100A. the first mass-market Blu-ray Disc (BD) rewritable drive for the PC was released by Sony.

Blu-ray was meant to be the successor to the DVD, and could store high definition (HD) video at 1080p resolution while DVDs were only capable of a meagre 480p. The other contender for "DVD Killer" was HD DVD, supported by Toshiba.

BD received a big push with the release of the Sony PlayStation 3 later that year [Nov 11] since it included a BD player. As a result, during the first three-quarters of 2007, BD outsold HD DVD by about two to one.

Then on June 28, 2007, Twentieth Century Fox 'voted' for BD, citing the BD+ anti-copying system as key to their decision. On January 4, 2008, Warner Bros. joined in, announcing that it would release only BDs after May 2008. This triggered a chain reaction, with major US retailers such as Best Buy, Walmart, and Circuit City, dropping HD DVDs soon after.

On February 19, 2008, Toshiba threw in the towel, declaring that it would end production of HD DVD devices.

As of January 2016, 44% of US broadband households had a Blu-ray player.

## Mt. Gox Launched

### July 18, 2010

Mt. Gox was a bitcoin [Jan 3] exchange based in Tokyo, created by Jed McCaleb after reading about bitcoin on Slashdot [Oct 5], although less than a year later he sold the site to French developer Mark Karpelès.

By 2013 the site was handling over 70% of all bitcoin transactions worldwide, but matters quickly soured when regulations effectively froze it out of the US banking system. This caused withdrawals to be suspended, and eventually all trading to come to a halt.

Meanwhile, in Feb. 2014, Mt. Gox announced that approximately 850,000 bitcoins belonging to customers and the company were missing and most likely stolen, an amount worth more than $450 million at the time.

In April 2014, the company began liquidation proceedings.

Later research by Tokyo security company WizSec suggested that "most or all of the missing bitcoins were stolen straight out of the Mt. Gox hot cryptocurrency wallet [Aug 19] over time, beginning in late 2011."

The site was called Mt. Gox since Jed McCaleb already owned the domain name mtgox.com which he had purchased to set up a trading card service called "Magic: The Gathering Online eXchange".