

## June 24th

### Video Recorder

June 24, 1963

Norman Rutherford and Michael Turner of Nottingham Electronic Valve Company (NEVC) demonstrated the first home video recorder at the BBC News Studios in London. The Telcan ("television in a can") could record just 20 minutes of black and white TV onto quarter-inch tape [May 16] on a reel-to-reel system. It could be bought ready-built or in kit form for £60 but that version required high levels of skill to assemble.

### CES

June 24-28, 1967

The first Consumer Electronics Show (CES) was held in NYC at the Hilton and Americana hotels as a spin-off of the Chicago Music Show which had hosted consumer electronics up to that time.

There were over 100 exhibitors, an estimated 17,500 people attended, and the hot items were pocket radios and TVs with integrated circuits. The keynote speaker was Motorola [Sept 25] chairman Bob Galvin.

From 1978 to 1994, CES was held twice a year: in January in Las Vegas as the Winter Consumer Electronics Show (WCES) [Jan 10] and in June in Chicago as the Summer Consumer Electronics Show (SCES) [May 29]. This change occurred after the 1977 show in Chicago [Jan 7] when the city was so cold that attendees were advised not to leave their hotel rooms. In 1998, the shows merged into a once-a-year event in Las Vegas [April 29].

According to Rebecca Greenfield, the phrase "booth babe" first appeared in a *Toronto Star* article covering the 1986 CES.

But their scantily clad attire had been a norm since the 1970's, following similar developments in the auto show industry.

### TFT LCD TV Screen

June 24, 1988

Sharp [March 00; Nov 1] announced a 14-inch TFT (Thin-film-transistor) color LCD (liquid-crystal display) unit, much bigger than the 3-inch display size of mass-produced TFT LCDs of the time.

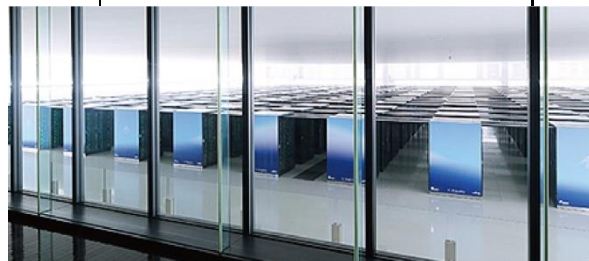
LCDs had finally become suitable for home appliances such as TVs, which signaled the beginning of the end of conventional CRT monitors. Not only was a LCD display approximately 1/13 as thick as a CRT, it was also considerably less heavy.

### TOP500 Ranking

June 24, 1993

TOP500 ranks the 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world, with the first list published on this day at the Mannheim Supercomputer Seminar (ISC'93). It has been updated twice a year since then, in June and November.

TOP500 bases its rankings on results obtained with HPL, a version of the LINPACK benchmarks [Dec 1] coded in C.



Fugaku at the Riken Center in Kobe, Japan. Photo by Hiroko Hama. CC BY-SA 4.0

On the June 2021 list, the Japanese supercomputer Fugaku, co-developed by the Riken Center for Computational

Science and Fujitsu to use 7.6 million cores and 5 million GBs (i.e. 5 PBs) of memory, held the top spot with an HPL benchmark score of 442 PFLOPS, three times faster than the machine in second place.

The fastest machine on the first list was a Cray-1 [March 4] at the Los Alamos National Lab, running at a mere 160 MFLOPS (a magnitude of 10<sup>9</sup> less).

Nearly all the fastest supercomputers in the last decade have used OSes based on Linux. Also, the performance of the machine at no. 1 has grown in accordance with Moore's law [April 19], doubling roughly every 14 months.

The list is compiled by Jack Dongarra, Erich Strohmaier, Horst Simon.

### Live Streaming

June 24, 1993

"Severe Tire Damage" (STD) performed the first Internet concert (aka netcast). The band set up their gear on the patio of Xerox PARC [July 1] and streamed their show over the Internet Multicast Backbone, or Mbone [July 30]. The 152 x 76-pixel live stream consumed about half the Internet's bandwidth.

The band members were Russ Haines: guitar and vocals (from the DEC Systems Research Center); Mark Manasse: bass and vocals (DEC Systems Research Center); Steven Rubin: vocals (Apple); and Mark Weiser: drums (Xerox PARC).

Before the gig, the band were so worried about the copyright of the cover versions they were going to perform that they rang Sony Music to check if they needed to pay royalties. Sony's response was 'Music on the Internet? Don't worry, it's not an issue' [Oct 31].

The next netcast was by "Deth Specula", on [Aug 23] 1994. This was followed by "The Rolling

Stones" [Aug 24; Dec 7] on Nov. 18, who broadcast a concert from the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. An estimated 50,000 fans tuned in to what is now considered the "first major cyberspace multicast concert."

Mick Jagger [Sept 4] opened by saying, "I wanna say a special welcome to everyone that's, uh, climbed into the Internet tonight and, uh, has got into the MBone. And I hope it doesn't all collapse."

Without permission, Severe Tire Damage broadcast an opening set prior to the Stone's concert, which was another first for the band. Somewhat peeved, the Stones described their computer-savvy competitors as "furry Palo Alto Geeks."

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## IGDA June 24, 1994

The International Game Developers Association (IGDA) was founded by Ernest W. Adams, originally as the Computer Game Developers Association (CGDA).

Adams saw the need for a professional association after the 1992 US Congressional hearings on video game violence [July 1; May 5]. Democratic Party Senator Herb Kohl had illustrated why government regulation was needed by showing clips from 1992's "Mortal Kombat" [Oct 8] and "Night Trap", both games that featured digitized actors. Senator Joe Lieberman also criticized Mortal Kombat's TV ads in which a boy shouts 'I said I wanted chocolate chip!' when given the wrong cookie after completing the game.

The same hearings prompted the formation of the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) [Sept 16].

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## Symbian June 24, 1998

Symbian was a grand partnership between Nokia [May 12], Ericsson [Dec 27], Motorola [March 7], Sony [Nov 24], and Psion, and produced the Symbian OS for 2.5G and 3G smartphones, descended from Psion's EPOC [Sept 00].

Symbian's market share peaked at 67% in 2006, but the OS was difficult to develop for compared to iOS [Jan 9] and Android [Nov 5]. Over the course of 2009–10, Motorola, Samsung, and others withdrew from the group in favor of alternative platforms (usually Android), and by 2012 its share of the market had plummeted to 4.4%.

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## Presidential Webcast June 24, 2000

Bill Clinton [Jan 17; March 9; Oct 28; Nov 8] made the first ever Presidential webcast. Among the announcements, Clinton debuted a new website (www.firstgov.gov) and proposed several initiatives, designed "to go forward in creating a high-speed, high-tech, user-friendly government".

The very first webcast occurred on [July 17], 1995. Clinton's inauguration on Jan. 20, 1997 had also been webcast.

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## Standard SOAP June 24, 2003

SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol) is a messaging format that uses XML [Feb 10]. It usually relies on HTTP [June 8] or the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP [April 23]) for message transmission (HTTP is preferred since it works well with network firewalls).

SOAP was designed in 1998 by Dave Winer [May 2], Don Box, Bob Atkinson, and Mohsen Al-Ghosein at Microsoft. The

specification was submitted to IETF [Jan 16] on Sept. 13, 1999, and became an official W3C [Oct 1] recommendation on this day.



Souvenir soap of Queen Elizabeth II. Photo by David - An Unguarded Moment. CC BY-SA 2.0.

SOAP has been criticised for its verbosity, slow parsing, and lack of a standardized interaction model. A popular alternative is REST (Representational State Transfer) [Sept 27]. (Other people suggest bathing in milk.)

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## Holding It Wrong June 24, 2010

Some owners of the iPhone 4 [March 18] began complaining about a signal-loss problem related to the placement of the device's wireless antenna. It occurred when a user held the phone so a gap in the bottom-left corner was covered.

Steve Jobs [Feb 24] responded by stating "Just avoid holding it in that way"

After the fuss escalated, Apple began offering free phone cases and, for a limited time, iPhone 4 refunds.

In a perhaps unrelated incident, an iPhone 4 fell out of skydiver Jarrod McKinney's pocket in July 2011, dropped some 13500 ft, and landed on top of a building.

After touching down, McKinney was able to locate the device via its GPS signal, and it was still able to receive phone calls.

Just another example of the problem that plagued iPhone 4s: dropped calls.

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