History of the \( \mu \)Processor

400BC Abacus invented in Babylonia (now Iraq)

100BC Antikythera mechanism, used for registering and predicting the motion of the stars and planets

700AD Arabic numbers introduced (zero, 10's, 100's etc.)

1641 John Napier invents logs.

1623 Wilhelm Schickard builds first mechanical calculator. 6 digits. Prototype only.

1642 Blaise Pascal builds a mechanical calculator. 8 digits, trouble with carries, Jams

1820 Charles Babbage conceives of a “Difference Engine” to print astronomical tables. Canceled after 20 years. Analytical Engine is next. Use punched cards for control.

1833 Augusta Ada Byron meets Babbage. Analyzes programming potential and outlines fundamentals of computer programming.

1941 Konrad Zuse builds first general purpose programmable calculator. Pioneers use of binary math and boolean logic in electronic calculation.

1943 Colossus (Alan Turing). British code breaking computer (Enigma)

1947 Bell Telephone Laboratories invents the transistor.

1951 Universal Automatic Compute (UNIVAC). 12,000 digits in random access mercury-delay lines.

1959 Texas Instruments and Fairchild announce the integrated circuit.


1964 IBM 360.

1965 An IC that cost $1000 in 1959 now costs $10. Gordon Moore predicts the number of components in an IC will double each year.

1968 Gordon Moore and Robert Noyce found Intel.

1969 ARPANET.

1970 Fairchild Semiconductor introduces a 256 bit RAM chip.

1970 Intel introduces a 1K RAM, and the 4004.

1971 Bill Gates and Paul Allen form Traf-O-Data. Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak are building “blue boxes”.

1972 8008. 8 bit version of 4004.
1973 Bob Kahn and Vint Cerf develop the basic idea of the Internet.

1974 BBN opens first public packet-switched network.

1975 MITS Altair 8800. Hailed as the first personal computer. Paul Allen and Bill Gates develop BASIC. Microsoft is born.

1977 Apple II. 16K of RAM. US$1195 (no monitor)

1979 USENET (UNC and Duke).

1981 IBM PC.

1982 TCP/IP standardized for ARPANET.

1984 Apple Macintosh.

1985 Windows 1.0.

1989 Microsoft's sales reach US$1 billion.