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ENGELBART'S CRUSADE

CS377E
 Spring 2015
 April 2, 2015
 Stanford University

PREDICTING → INVENTING
 THE FUTURE

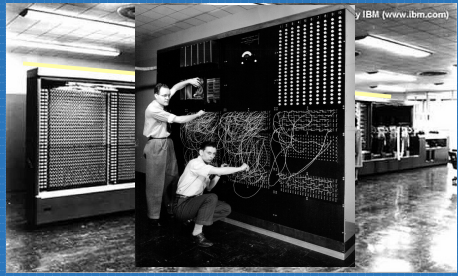
Computers weren't always like this...



Computers don't *have* to be like this!

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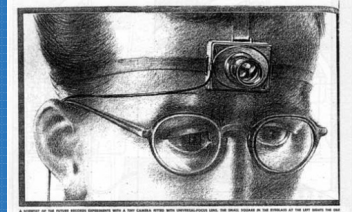

COMPUTING IN 1945



Harvard Mark I : 55 feet long, 8 feet high, 5 tons
<http://piano.dsi.uminho.pt/museum/indexmark.htm>

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VANNEVAR BUSH KICKED OFF BIG SCIENCE

- "As We May Think", the *Atlantic Monthly*, July 1945
- Futuristic inventions / trends
 - wearable cameras to record life
 - encyclopedia for a nickel
 - automatic transcripts of speech
 - trails of discovery
 - capture of nerve impulses
 - Memex

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MEMEX



Picture from <http://www.dynamicdiagrams.com/design/memex/model.html#download>
 Demo at http://www.dynamicdiagrams.com/case_studies/memex.html

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MEMEX NEVER BUILT... OR WAS IT?



Memex #001 by Trevor Smith, 2013
<http://trevor.smith.name/memex/>

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COMPUTING IN 1965



IBM System/360
 Bundesarchiv B 145 Bild-F038812-0014, Wolfsburg, VW Autowerk by Bundesarchiv, B 145 Bild-F038812-0014 / Schasck, Lothar / CC-BY-SA. Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0 de via Wikimedia Commons.

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COMPUTING IN 1965



IBM System/360
 960-91-panel. Licensed under Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons.

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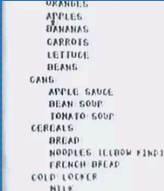

SKETCHPAD – SUTHERLAND (1963)



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DOUGLAS ENGELBART

AUGMENTING HUMAN INTELLECT

- Stanford Research Institute (SRI) in the 1960s
- 1962 Paper "Conceptual Model for Augmenting Human Intellect"
 - complexity of problems increasing → need new tools to solve

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ENGELBART'S CRUSADE

*"The **complexity of a lot of the problems** [in the world] and the means for solving them are just getting to be too much. The time available for solving a lot of the problems is getting shorter and shorter. So the **urgency goes up**... The complexity/urgency factor had transcended what humans can cope with. I suddenly flashed that if you could do something to **improve human capability to cope with that**, then you'd really contribute something basic."*

– Douglas Engelbart (1996)

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AUGMENTING HUMAN INTELLECT


"I had the image of sitting at a big CRT screen with all kinds of symbols... The computer could be manipulating, and you could be operating all kinds of things to drive the computer..."

I also really got a clear picture that one's colleagues could be sitting in other rooms with similar work stations, tied to the same computer complex, and could be sharing and working and collaborating very closely. And also the assumption that there'd be a lot of new skills, new ways of thinking that would evolve"

– Douglas Engelbart (1996)

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THE MOTHER OF ALL DEMOS



monday afternoon
december 9
3:45 p.m. / arena
Chairman:
DR. D. C. ENGELBART
Stanford Research Institute
Menlo Park, California

**a research center
for augmenting human
intellect**

This session is entirely devoted to a presentation by Dr. Engelbart on a computer-based, interactive, multiconsole display system which is being developed at Stanford Research Institute under the sponsorship of ARPA, NASA and RADC. The system is being used as an experimental laboratory for investigating principles by which interactive computer aids can augment intellectual capability. The techniques which are being described will, themselves, be used to augment the presentation.

The session will use an on-line, closed circuit television hook-up to the SRI computing system in Menlo Park. Following the presentation remote terminals to the system, in operation, may be viewed during the remainder of the conference in a special room set aside for that purpose.

Demoed NLS (oNLine System)
1968 Fall Joint Computer Conference
San Francisco's Civic Center

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AUGMENTING HUMAN INTELLECT



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NLS FIRSTS

- First mouse, and ?
- First groupware (shared screen teleconferencing)
- First 2D editing & windows
- First context-sensitive help
- First hypertext
- First distributed client-server
- First word processing
- Many, many more!
- First document version control

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TRICYCLES & BICYCLES: SPECIALIZED TOOLS

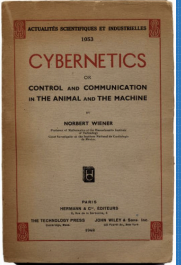



Tricycles vs. Bicycles

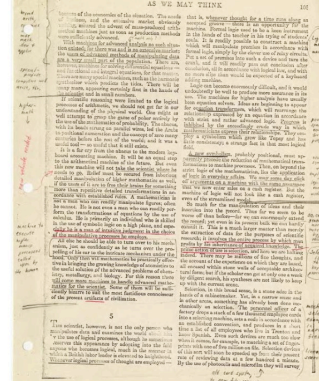
"If ease of use was the only valid criterion, people would stick to tricycles and never try bicycles." — Douglas Engelbart

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ENGELBART



CYBERNETICS
CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION
IN THE ANIMAL AND THE MACHINE
NORBERT WIENER



Norbert Wiener defined cybernetics in 1948 as "the scientific study of control and communication in the animal and the machine."

http://web.stanford.edu/dept/SLU/library/extra4/sloan/mousesite/EngelbartPapers/LetterToVBush.html

Douglas C. Engelbart
Stanford Research Institute
Menlo Park, California

May 24, 1962

Dr. Vannevar Bush
Professor Emeritus
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Bush:

I wish permission from you to extract lengthy and definitely acknowledged quotes from your article, **"As We May Think,"** that appeared in The Atlantic Monthly, July, 1945. These quotes would appear in a report that I am writing for the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, and I am sending a parallel request to The Atlantic Monthly.

For your information I am enclosing a relatively brief and quite general writeup

