# **Computer Science Timeline – Version A**

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| 1936 | English computer pioneer Alan Turing developed a hypothetical computing machine called the Turing machine. |
| 1939-1945 | Analog computers used in World War II to calculate paths of bombs and bullets. |
| 1939 | First special-purpose electronic digital computer was constructed by John V. Atanasoff and Clifford Berry. |
| c. 1960 – c. 1970 | U.S. Defense Department developed ARPAnet, the forerunner of the internet, in the 1960's. |
| 1961 | More than 10,000 computers in use worldwide. |
| 1961 | The very first web page went live. |
| 1971 | More than 100,000 computers in use worldwide. |
| 1972 | Pong, the first commercially successful arcade video game, appeared. Pong was a simple but fast-paced game based on table tennis. |
| 1975 | Microsoft began as an informal business partnership between former schoolmates Bill Gates and Paul Allen. |
| 1976 | Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak founded Apple Computer, Inc. (now Apple Inc.) |
| 1983 | Apple introduced the Lisa, the first commercial computer to feature a mouse and a graphical user interface (GUI). People could now issue commands by pointing to on-screen symbols and clicking a mouse rather than by typing instructions. |
| 1985 | Microsoft introduced the first of a series of operating systems called Windows. |
| 1985 | Nintendo released the video game Super Mario Bros. |
| 1989 | The Nintendo Game Boy was released. Developed by the Japanese game designer Gunpei Yokoi, Game Boy was a battery-powered handheld game system. It featured a dim liquid crystal display (LCD) that displayed four shades of one color. |
| 1990 | About 100 million computers in use worldwide. |
| c. 1990 – c. 2000 | Virtual reality games appeared in arcades and stores in the 1990's. |
| 1991 | The first web browser enabled the public to use the internet more easily. |
| 1994 | Yahoo!, a popular online portal, was launched. One of Yahoo!’s most widely used services is its search engine, which helps users locate websites and information on the internet. Yahoo! also offers communication services—such as Yahoo! Mail and Yahoo! Messenger—that enable users to send e-mail and instant messages to one another. |
| 1997 | Netflix, an online movie rental service, was founded. |
| 1998 | Google, Inc. launched its search engine. In addition to its search engine, Google offers a variety of products and services. The company's Android operating system runs many mobile phones, small computers, and other electronic devices. Google Chrome is a popular web browser, a type of program used to access and interact with websites. Google runs YouTube, a major video-sharing website. Google Maps, an interactive, searchable map service, provides satellite and street-level imagery and gives directions between locations. |
| 2001 | Wikipedia, a wiki-based encyclopedia, started. Wikis are websites that enable multiple people to quickly and easily edit their content. |
| 2001 | Apple introduced the iPod, a peripheral device for storing and playing digital music. |
| 2004 | Facebook, a social networking website, was launched. Facebook users can send messages to one another and share pictures, videos, articles, and more. |
| 2005 | YouTube, a video-sharing website, was launched. YouTube is a video-sharing website where users can view, upload, and download videos. |
| 2006 | Twitter, a social networking website, was launched. Twitter is a social networking website that allows users to post extremely short messages, called tweets. |
| 2007 | Apple released the iPhone. Before the iPhone, most cell phones had physical keys, tiny screens, and very limited—if any—internet capabilities. With its large touchscreen, robust internet connectivity, and ever-expanding suite of apps (applications), the iPhone revolutionized the cell phone industry. |
| 2010 | Apple Inc. released the iPad, the first widely used tablet computer. |
| 2010 | Instagram, a photo-sharing and social networking service, was founded. The mobile app (application) allows people to instantly post (upload) pictures and short videos onto social networking websites. |
| 2015 | Apple Inc. begins selling its first computerized "smart watch," called the Apple Watch. |
| 2016 | The Oculus Rift was released. Oculus's Rift headset allowed users to explore virtual reality (VR)—an artificial, three-dimensional computer environment. Inventors had been working for years to deliver a VR experience to customers, but previous VR systems had been beset by technological problems. |
| 2017 | Fortnite: Save the World and Fortnite Battle Royale were both released. |
| 2017 | Nintendo released the Nintendo Switch. The Switch functions as both a console and a handheld system, allowing players to play the same games at home or on the go. |