

The All-Time Top 150 i-Technology Heroes
Programming Titans and the Giants On Whose Shoulders They Stand
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The following list is taken from the above referenced article listing, in alphabetical order, selected icons from the information technology world as identified by the authors and their contributors. It is an interesting and fun history lesson in "who's who" from the dawn of technology to the near current era.

Gene Amdahl: Implementer in the 60s of a milestone in computer technology: the concept of compatibility between systems

Marc Andreessen: Pioneer of Mosaic, the first browser to navigate the WWW; co-founder of Netscape

John Atanasoff: "Forgotten Father of the Computer"; inventor of the first automatic electronic digital computer

Bill Atkinson: Author of the "Quickdraw" graphics layer in Macintosh, proving that advanced bitmapped graphics was possible on a low-end processor

Charles Babbage: Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge in 1828; inventor of the 'calculating machine'

John Backus: Inventor (with IBM) of FORTRAN (FORmula TRANslator) in 1956

John Bardeen: Winner of the 1958 Nobel Prize in physics for inventing the transistor (with Walter Brattain and William Buckley)

Kent Beck: Creator of JUnit and pioneer of eXtreme Programming (XP)

David Bell: Developer (with Len LaPadula) of the Bell-LaPadula Model of security

Steve Bellovin: One of the originators of USENET

Bob Bemer: One of the developers of COBOL and the ASCII naming standard for IBM (1960s)

Tim Berners-Lee: "Father of the World Wide Web" and expectant father of the Semantic Web

D J Bernstein: Author of qmail

Gerrit Blaauw: Principal designer of first system to implement the VM (virtual machine) concept

Joshua Bloch: Formerly at Sun, where he helped architect Java's core platform; now at Google

Grady Booch: One of the original developers of the Unified Modeling Language

Adam Bosworth: Famous for Quattro Pro, Microsoft Access, and IE4; then BEA, now Google

Don Box: Co-author of SOAP

David J. Bradley: Inventor of the three-finger salute, Ctrl.-Alt-Del

Walter Brattain: Co-inventor (with John Bardeen and William Shockley) of the transistor

Tim Bray: One of the prime movers of XML, now with Sun

Dan Bricklin: Co-creator (with Bob Frankston) of VisiCalc, the first PC spreadsheet

Larry Brilliant: Co-founder in 1984 of the WELL bulletin board

Sergey Brin: Son-of-college-math-professor turned cofounder of Google

Fred Brooks: Co-creator of OS/390, helping change the way we think about software development; winner of the 1999 Turing Award

Vannevar Bush: Electrical engineer and physicist who designed (1928) the "differential analyzer"

Ada Byron, Countess of Lovelace: First female geek in recorded history

Luca Cardelli: Implementer of the first compiler for ML (the most popular typed functional language) and one of the earliest direct-manipulation user-interface editors

Vint(on) Cerf: "The Father of the Internet," co-inventor with Robert Kahn of the first Internetworking Protocol, TCP

Ward Christensen: Founder of the first BBS ever brought online (built by Randy Suess)

Ward Cunningham: Father of the wiki

Alonzo Church: Co-creator with Alan Turing of the "Church-Turing Thesis"

Alistair Cockburn: Helped craft the Agile Development Manifesto

Edgar (Ted) Codd: "Father of Relational Databases," inventor of SQL and creator of RDBMS systems

Larry Constantine: Inventor of data flow diagrams; presented first paper on concepts of structured design in 1968

Bram Cohen: developer of BitTorrent

Brad Cox: Father of Objective-C

Dave Cutler: The brains behind VMS; hired away by Microsoft for Windows NT

Ole-Johan Dahl: Developer (with Kristen Nygaard) of SIMULA, the first object-oriented programming language

Miguel de Icaza: Now with Novell, cofounder of Ximian

Tom DeMarco: A principal of the computer systems think tank, Atlantic Systems Guild

Theo de Raadt: Founder of the OpenBSD and OpenSSH projects

Edsger W. Dijkstra: One of the moving forces behind the acceptance of computer programming as a scientific discipline; developer of the first compilers

Presper Eckert: Co-inventor (with John Mauchly) of the first general-purpose electronic digital computer (ENIAC)

Brendan Eich: Inventor of JavaScript; Chief Architect of the Mozilla Project

Robert Elz: University of Melbourne Department of Computer Science

Doug Engelbart: Invented while at SRI in the 60s the idea of a mouse, overlapping windows, hypertext, outlining, and video collaboration

Don Ferguson: Inventor of the J2EE application server at IBM; now with Microsoft

Richard P. Feynman: Legendary physicist and teacher, teacher of Caltech course 1983-86 called "Potentialities and Limitations of Computing Machines"

Roy T. Fielding: Primary architect of HTTP 1.1 and a founder of the Apache Web server

David Filo: Co-founder of Yahoo!

Martin Fowler: Famous for work on refactoring, XP, and UML

Bob Frankston: Co-creator (with Dan Bricklin) of VisiCalc, the first PC spreadsheet

Bill Gates: Chief Software Architect (and Lord High Chief Everything Else) of "the world's #1 company" (Hoovers.com)

Jon Gay: The "Father of Flash"

Adele Goldberg: Developer of SmallTalk along with Alan Kay; wrote much of the documentation

James Gosling: "Father of Java" (though not its sole parent)

Anders Hejlsberg: Genius behind the Turbo Pascal compiler, subsequently "Father of C#"

Andy Hertzfield: Eazel developer and Macintosh forefather

Daniel W. Hillis: VP of R&D at the Walt Disney Company; cofounder, Thinking Machines

Grace Murray Hopper: The so-called "Mother of COBOL," she created FLOW-MATIC that later inspired COBOL, the first compiled high-level programming language

Jordan Hubbard: One of the creators of FreeBSD

Jean D Ichbiah: Principal designer, Ada language (1977)

Jonathan Ive: Principal designer of the iMac and iPod

Ken Iverson: Inventor of APL, later J

Steve Jobs: Business genius at the core of Apple; co-founder (with Steve Wozniak) and currently CEO

Bill Joy: Co-founder and former chief scientist of Sun; main author of Berkeley Unix

William Kahan: "The Old Man of Floating-Point;" primary architect behind the IEEE 754 standard for floating-point computation

Robert Kahn: Co-inventor with Vint Cerf of the first Internetworking Protocol, TCP

Mitch Kapor: Designer of Lotus 1-2-3, founder of Lotus Development Corporation

Mike Karels: System architect for 4.3BSD

Alan Kay: Inventor of SmallTalk

Jack Kilby: Inventor of the microchip

Gary Kildall: Author of the archetypical OS known as CP/M (control Program for Microcomputers)

Brian Kernighan: One of the creators of the AWK and AMPL languages

Mitchell Kertzman: Former programmer, founder, and CEO of Powersoft (later Sybase)

Klaus Knopper: Prime mover of Knoppix, a Linux distro that runs directly from a CD

Donald Knuth: "Father of Computer Science" - author of *The Art of Computer Programming*; inventor of TeX, allowing typesetting of text and mathematical formulas on a PC (and thus also the Father of Word Processing.)

Butler Lampson: Architect of Cedar/Mesa; Implementer of Xerox Alto

Jaron Lanier: Popularizer of the term "virtual reality" (in the early 1980s)

Len LaPadula: Developer (with David Bell) of the Bell-LaPadula Model of security

Leon Post: Developer of a Post-Turing machine

Rasmus Lerdorf: Creator of the PHP scripting language

Ada Lovelace: see Ada Byron, Countess of Lovelace

Craig McClanahan: Of Tomcat, Struts, and JSF fame

Robert C. Martin: Agile software development proponent; CEO, president, and founder of Object Mentor

Yukihiro Matsumoto ("Matz"): Creator of Ruby

John McCarthy: Creator, with his graduate students, of Lisp

Doug McIlroy: Head of department at Bell Labs where UNIX started

John Mauchly: Co-inventor (with Presper Eckert) of the first general-purpose electronic digital computer (ENIAC)

Bob Metcalfe: Inventor of the Ethernet

Chuck Moore: Inventor of Forth, a high-level programming language

Gordon Moore: Co-founder of Intel; author of Moore's Law (1965)

Andrew Morton: Linus's No. 2 in the Linux kernel group

Michael J. Muuss: Author of the freeware network tool Ping.

Nathan Myhrvold: Theoretical and mathematical physicist, former CTO at Microsoft

Nicholas Negroponte: Father of the MIT Media Lab

Ted Nelson: Creator of the Xanadu project - universal, democratic hypertext library; precursor to the WWW

Robert Noyce: a.k.a. "the Mayor of Silicon Valley", one of the inventors of the integrated circuit or microchip

Kristen Nygaard: Developer (with Ole-Johan Dahl) of SIMULA, the first object-oriented programming language

Jarkko Oikarinen: Developer of the IRC protocol

Tim O'Reilly: Publisher, open source advocate; believer that great technology needs great books

Peter Pag: Pioneer of 4GLS (1979); developed Software AG's Natural

Jean Paoli: One of the co-creators of the XML 1.0 standard with the W3C; now with Microsoft

Bob Pasker: founder of WebLogic, author of the first Java Application Server

John Patrick: Former VP of Internet technology at IBM, now "e-tired"

Benjamin Pierce: Harvard University faculty member for 49 years; recognized in his time as one of America's leading mathematicians

Rob Pike: An early developer of Unix and windowing system (GUI) technology

P J Plauger: Chair of the ANSI C committee

Jon Postel: "The 'North Star' Who Defined the Internet"

John Postley: Developed Mark IV (1967), the first million dollar software product, for Informatics

Jef Raskin: Mac pioneer who wrote the original Macintosh specification

Martin Richards: Designer of the BCPL Cintcode System

Dennis Ritchie: Creator of C and co-inventor (with Ken Thompson) of Unix

Martin Roesch: Author of the open-source program Snort in 1998

Jonathan Rotenberg: Founder of the Boston Computer Society

Gurusamy Sarathy: Heavily involved in maintaining the mainstream releases of Perl for the past 7 years

Carl Sassenrath: Author of REBOL, a scripting language

Roger Schell: Encryption expert; founding Deputy Director of the (now) National Computer Security Center

Claude E. Shannon: Father of Information Theory and digital circuit design

William Shockley: Co-inventor (with John Bardeen and Walter Brattain) of the transistor

Dave Sifry: CEO of Technorati and a founding member of the Linux International board of directors

Gene Spafford: First analyst of the Morris Worm, one of the earliest computer worms

Richard Stallman: Free software movement's leading figure; founder of the GNU Project, author of the GPL

Guy L. Steele: Author of authoritative books and papers on Lisp

Bjarne Stroustrup: The designer and original implementor of C++

W. Richard Stevens: "Guru of the Unix Gurus"; author and consultant

Michael Stonebreaker: Author of Ingres and Postgres

Randy Suess: Builder of the first BBS (programmed by Ward Christensen)

Ivan Sutherland: Considered by many to be the creator of Computer Graphics

Larry Tesler: Inventor of the modeless editor while at Xerox Parc working with Alan Kay on Smalltalk

Guy (Bud) Tribble: One of the industry's top experts in software design and object-oriented programming

Andy Tanenbaum: Professor of computer science, author of Minix

Avadis (Avie) Tevanian: Chief Software Technology Officer, Apple

Ken Thompson: Co-inventor (with Dennis Ritchie) of Unix

Bruce Tognazzini ("Tog"): Worked a lot on "understandability" in Mac GUI

Ray Tomlinson: Developer of the first e-mail network

Linus Torvalds: "Benevolent dictator" of the Linux kernel

Guy (Bud) Tribble: One of the industry's top experts in software design and object-oriented programming

Alan Turing: Mathematician; author of the 1950 paper "Computing Machinery and Intelligence"

Guido van Rossum: Author of the Python programming language

Patrick Volkerding: Creator of Slackware Linux

John von Neumann: Co-creator of Game Theory and designer of a computer architecture in which data and program memory are mapped into the same address space

Larry Wall: Author of Perl

John Warnock: Inventor of PostScript; CEO of Adobe Systems

Michael "Monty" Widenius: Creator of MySQL

Ann Winblad: Former programmer, cofounder of Hummer Winblad Venture Partners

Nicklaus Wirth: Inventor of Algol W, Pascal, Modula, Modula-2, and Oberon

Stephen Wolfram: Scientist, creator of Mathematica

Steve Wozniak: a.k.a. "The Woz," co-founder (with Steve Jobs) of Apple; creator of Apple I and Apple II in the mid-1970s

Jerry Yang: Co-founder of Yahoo!

Jamie Zawinski: Instrumental in the creation of Lucid Emacs (now XEmacs)

Konrad Zuse: Creator of the first full automatic, program-controlled and freely programmable working computer

Reference:

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