Remembrances of Things Past

Status of this Memo

This memo provides information for the Internet community. It does not specify an Internet standard. Distribution of this memo is unlimited.

Discussion

When Shannon was a river
   and Turing was a car
When Banyan was a tree
   and buses travelled far

dBase was where you ran to
   after you hit the ball
Often we were ANSI
   RISC aversive not at all

Windows were for looking out of
   in a Tandem, two could take a spin
Bridges were for crossing
   a frame was to keep pictures in

A semi-conductor was a maestro
   not in the big time yet
A port you sought in a storm
   fishermen used a net

Woody Guthrie sang of "My LAN"
   WAN was a despairing mood
LATAs were for high places
   menus featured food
If a cursor used four letter words
  a sensor cut them out
The sight of a mouse in an office
  was sure to raise a shout

Haloid perfected photocopying
  and thereby made a hoard
Then came Japanese competition
  and its "ox" was gored

Frequency was measured in cycles
  Hertz referred to multiple pain
Modem was a harvesting command
  for bringing in the grain

Modelling was at fashion shows
  bauds were ladies of the night
Prompting was helping actors
  contesting for resources, a fight

Walking and chewing gum concurrently
  requires considerable skill
We called it multi-tasking
  and by gosh we always will

We had no electronic calculators
  just slide rules by Keuffel & Esser
I am still a true believer
  Keufel & Esser war besser

Chips were used for gambling
  von Neuman was a pup
Monte Carlo a place to visit
  squaring the circle ... well, we gave up

A Sprint was less than 880
  a relay was a team
Greene was just a color
  breaking up AT&T a dream
Coherent was applied to speech
not a spectral line excited
Multi-media meant prose and song
and Noel Coward was knighted

Cerf was found at the beach
  a Rose was a Rose was a Rose
Jobs were to look for
  and Gates were to close

"2B" was an elementary school class
  and "D" a failing grade
A router was a tool
  a server was a maid

Lotus was a flower
  adobe was a brick
Postscript was an afterthought
  joy a popsicle stick

We called a plotter a CAD
  a token ring a sham
A buffer was for buffing
  a male goat was a ram

The best noise supressor was ... ssh
  we knew little of egos and ids
For archival storage and encryption
  we looked to the pyramids

Now in accordance with Greenfield’s Law
  in voice both loud and clear
Here’s to exponential growth in memory
  & operating speed next year.

--srg
Security Considerations

Security issues are not discussed in this memo.

Author’s Address

Stanley R. Greenfield
Ziff-Davis
One Park Avenue
New York, NY 10016

EMail: 0004689513@mcimail.com