



# JOHN VON NEUMANN and THE ORIGINS OF MODERN COMPUTING WILLIAM ASPRAY

# John Von Neumann And The Origins Of Modern Computing

**Michael John Bradley**



## **John Von Neumann And The Origins Of Modern Computing:**

**John Von Neumann and the Origins of Modern Computing** William Aspray, 1990 William Aspray provides the first broad and detailed account of von Neumann's many different contributions to computing **John von Neumann and the Origins of Modern Computing** William Aspray, 1990-12-07 William Aspray provides the first broad and detailed account of von Neumann's many different contributions to computing John von Neumann 1903-1957 was unquestionably one of the most brilliant scientists of the twentieth century He made major contributions to quantum mechanics and mathematical physics and in 1943 began a new and all too short career in computer science William Aspray provides the first broad and detailed account of von Neumann's many different contributions to computing These Aspray reveals extended far beyond his well known work in the design and construction of computer systems to include important scientific applications the revival of numerical analysis and the creation of a theory of computing Aspray points out that from the beginning von Neumann took a wider and more theoretical view than other computer pioneers In the now famous EDVAC report of 1945 von Neumann clearly stated the idea of a stored program that resides in the computer's memory along with the data it was to operate on This stored program computer was described in terms of idealized neurons highlighting the analogy between the digital computer and the human brain Aspray describes von Neumann's development during the next decade and almost entirely alone of a theory of complicated information processing systems or automata and the introduction of themes such as learning reliability of systems with unreliable components self replication and the importance of memory and storage capacity in biological nervous systems many of these themes remain at the heart of current investigations in parallel or neurocomputing Aspray allows the record to speak for itself He unravels an intricate sequence of stories generated by von Neumann's work and brings into focus the interplay of personalities centered about von Neumann He documents the complex interactions of science the military and business and shows how progress in applied mathematics was intertwined with that in computers William Aspray is Director of the Center for the History of Electrical Engineering at The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers [A History of Modern Computing, second edition](#) Paul E. Ceruzzi, 2003-04-08 From the first digital computer to the dot com crash a story of individuals institutions and the forces that led to a series of dramatic transformations This engaging history covers modern computing from the development of the first electronic digital computer through the dot com crash The author concentrates on five key moments of transition the transformation of the computer in the late 1940s from a specialized scientific instrument to a commercial product the emergence of small systems in the late 1960s the beginning of personal computing in the 1970s the spread of networking after 1985 and in a chapter written for this edition the period 1995-2001 The new material focuses on the Microsoft antitrust suit the rise and fall of the dot coms and the advent of open source software particularly Linux Within the chronological narrative the book traces several overlapping threads the evolution of the computer's internal design the effect of economic trends and the Cold War the long term role of IBM as a

player and as a target for upstart entrepreneurs the growth of software from a hidden element to a major character in the story of computing and the recurring issue of the place of information and computing in a democratic society The focus is on the United States though Europe and Japan enter the story at crucial points on computing per se rather than on applications such as artificial intelligence and on systems that were sold commercially and installed in quantities **The Oxford**

**Companion to the History of Modern Science** John L. Heilbron, 2003-02-14 Containing 609 encyclopedic articles written by more than 200 prominent scholars The Oxford Companion to the History of Modern Science presents an unparalleled history of the field invaluable to anyone with an interest in the technology ideas discoveries and learned institutions that have shaped our world over the past five centuries Focusing on the period from the Renaissance to the early twenty first century the articles cover all disciplines Biology Alchemy Behaviorism historical periods the Scientific Revolution World War II the Cold War concepts Hypothesis Space and Time Ether and methodologies and philosophies Observation and Experiment Darwinism Coverage is international tracing the spread of science from its traditional centers and explaining how the prevailing knowledge of non Western societies has modified or contributed to the dominant global science as it is currently understood Revealing the interplay between science and the wider culture the Companion includes entries on topics such as minority groups art religion and science s practical applications One hundred biographies of the most iconic historic figures chosen for their contributions to science and the interest of their lives are also included Above all The Oxford Companion to the History of Modern Science is a companion to world history modern in coverage generous in breadth and cosmopolitan in scope The volume s utility is enhanced by a thematic outline of the entire contents a thorough system of cross referencing and a detailed index that enables the reader to follow a specific line of inquiry along various threads from multiple starting points Each essay has numerous suggestions for further reading all of which favor literature that is accessible to the general reader and a bibliographical essay provides a general overview of the scholarship in the field Lastly as a contribution to the visual appeal of the Companion over 100 black and white illustrations and an eight page color section capture the eye and spark the imagination Modern Mathematics, Updated Edition Michael Bradley, 2019-11-01 Praise for the previous edition

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overview of programming languages their history current application and future direction is based on the proceedings of the second conference on the History of Programming Languages Its contents include a summary of the HOPL conferences plus sections addressing successful programming languages by some of the most prominent names in computing

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