1. **ENIAC – The first of a kind, short for *Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer :***

* Designed by John Mauchly and J. Presper Eckert, this was built at the University of Pennsylvania at the behest of the U.S. Military.
* The U.S. army was in need of a device which can do calculations rather quickly, for preparing tables to instruct any soldier on the working of a weapon.
* Mauchly attracted their attention when in 1942, he claimed that vacuum tubes can be used for really speedy calculations.
* It was completed in 1945, a little after the war was over. It filled a 30x50 feet room with 17,468 vacuum tubes, 70000 resistors and 10000 capacitors.
* Could add 5000 numbers in a single second, there was no memory and to change a program it had to be rewritten.

1. **IBM 1401 – Second generation pioneer :**

* Announced by IBM on October 5, 1959, this was termed the first affordable general-purpose computer, when it was rented for $2500 per month.
* One of the first computers to completely run on transistors, it stored its data on punched cards.
* While the system was not a great leap in power or speed, it was a much needed step in terms of the size reduction(reduced to the size of a big cupboard) and being accessible to everyone with a fee made it relatively popular, so much that IBM was shocked to recieve 5200 orders shortly after the 1401 announcement.

1. **IBM System/360 – Stepping into the Third generation :**

* Even with the size reductionand better accessibility, the main feature of this computer which would change the industry was the *option to communicate with other systems* to transfer information.
* With this product’s announcement on April 7, 1964, IBM soon replaced all five of their other product lines with a single strictly compatible family, using an 8 bit architecture which was revolutionary, had upto 8MB of main memory, with a 16bit processing mainframe.
* With the discontinuation of every IBM line, these were ofcourse backwards compatible with most of their systems.
* IBM recieved more than a 1000 orders for the 360 in the first 4 weeks of its announcement, which was shocking considering these cost around $2 million, with businesses renting them for around $20000 per month.
* Soon an entire industry was built , consisting of multiple companies making peripherals for these systems.

1. **Honeywell 6000 – Delivering some competition :**

* The Honeywell 6000 series were rebadged versions of General Electric’s 600-series mainframe.
* These series of computers used a 36 bit processing mainframe, supplied from 1970 to 1989, providing most of the functionalities similar to an equivalent IBM computers.
* Said to be “m*emory oriented”,* a controller in each module worked with the other system components. Each system could support one or two 1MB memory modules.
* The first incarnation, announced in February 1971, the models numbered 60xx indicated a GCOS machine while the 61xx numbered indicated Multics.
* With models releasing in 1971, 1975, 1977 and 1979, the systems with an odd third digit were often the lower-end ones, and were essentially crippled by the company by reducing their clock speeds.