

English HThW - Electric Universe: people and inventions

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1. Ada Byron Lovelace

Early notions of computer programming

- First computer algorithm to calculate a sequence of the Bernoulli-numbers with an engine
- She was the first computer programmer.
- She wrote code/algorithms
- 2. Alan Turing
- Alan Turing, was a mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst, and computer scientist

Turing machine

- He gave a formalisation of the concepts of "algorithm" and "computation" with the Turing machine, which can be considered a model of a general purpose computer
- It was a machine, that was theoretically able, to solve any problem that can be translated into simple logical steps

Colossus

- Was a set of computers developed by British codebreakers at Bletchley Park
- Has been used to decipher Lorenz cipher (not Enigma)

3. Alexander **Graham Bell**

Telephone

Experiments:

- As a teenager, Bell experimented with the larynx of a dissected sheep which was attached to a bellows.
- Bell experimented with the vocal cords of his dog to recreate human sounds

Transmission of acoustic signals:

- The acoustic signal at the sender is first changed into a electric signal and at the receiving end the electric signal is changed back into an acoustic signal.
- First approach: It was an electric wire stretching out from a battery and connected to a single tuning fork. By switching the battery on and off, he could make the tuning fork hum in various ways.
- Final version: You speak into a tube which is connected with a bowl filled with acid water (acid makes the water conductive). The water quivers (zittert) from your uneven air blasts, changing the resistance inside the wire.
- An exact copy of the uneven pattern is sent to the receiver.
- The first telephone had a problem with the distance. Thomas Edison improved it by attaching a stronger battery, which pumped a more steady electric signal through the wires.

4. Cyrus Field

Edward

Whitehouse

William

Thomson

Transatlantic Telegraph

- Transatlantic telegraph cable under the ocean
- Problems with fixing the cable (too deep water)
- Problems with clear signal transmission
- Problems with thin insulation of the cable (signal dispersed)
- Problems with the weight (the cable snapped)

Design of Whitehouse/ Field:

- Three layers: each was as thin as possible to save weight. There would be a thin copper at the center, a thin layer of rubbery insulation around that and finally a casing of iron to protect the cable from ripping off.
- Field was a businessman and financier (investor)
- When the first message was transmitted it took a long time and the signal was not clear.
- Whitehouse (chief engineer) tried to send stronger currents through the cable, with an even bigger battery.
- The cable heated up, the insulation melted and the system short circuited

Design of Thomson:

- Much thicker insulation
- Believed at the invisible force fileds, which Faraday discovered
- Whitehouse was fired, and Thomson took over and rescued the whole endeavour

5. Guglielmo Marconi	Radio telegraph system Introduction of the Radio Music Box (radio waves, on different wave lengths).
	 Broadcasting National brands became more popular to shoppers Local sports teams increasingly attracted a nationwide fan base The cult of celebrity (Hollywood stars) Hitlers propaganda: The larger the mass of men to be reached, the lower its purely intellectual level will have to be set
6. Heinrich Hertz	Electromagnetic Waves - Based on Maxwells predictions - Proved the existence of electromagnetic waves - Hertz oscillator was divided in two parts: The first was a transmitter, where an electric spark jumped back and forth between shiny metal balls. The second part, the receiver, was a hanger.(Kleiderbügel)
7. James Maxwell	Electromagnetic force fields - He discovered that the force fields were actually made of two parts: an electric part and a magnetic part - Electromagnetic waves travel through the space by the speed of light
8. JJ. Thomson	Electron - Torn-off bits (electrons) roll forward inside a wire, creating an electric current
9. John Bardeen / Walter Brattain / Chefs Shockley	Semiconductor - Material: silicon - Before there were only two materials: conductors (most metals, alkalis) and insulators (plastic, ceramic, rubber, paper) Transistor - Transistors are smaller than vacuum tubes and they do not need as much energy - One of the first applications was an improved hearing aid - Cell phones - Weather satellites / spy satellites - GPS - Digital cameras - Solar Cells - Email and Internet - Credit Cards
10. Joseph Henry	Electro Magent - coil of wire, wrapped around a piece of iron, attached to a battery - a type of magnet in which the magnetic field is produced by an electric current
11. Michael Faraday	Electromagnetic force fields - While observing a rainbow, he thought, that even if the space seemed empty, something was there. - He proved that magnetic force fields existed. - As long as he moved the magnet in the vicinity of the wire, he created an electric current 1. Magnet moves back and forth through wire coil 2. An electrical current is generated
12. Overview	 Wires: Electro magnet, telegraph, telephone, lightbulb Waves: Radio waves Wavemachines: Radio, radar Computers: Turing machine, transistor

13. Reginald VictorJones / Cox / ArthurHarris

- Jones: He realized that the Germans have a functional radar system as well
- Cox: His experience as an amateur radio operator, qualified him to disassemble the Würzburg radar.
- Harris: He ordere area bombings on German cities, to kill as many people as possible.

Chaff

- A large number of aluminium stripes, were dropped from an airplaine to confuse the radar operators.
- Acted as a flurrying cloud, sending back an immense number of electric pulses, which would confuse enemy radar with false signals.
- they knew the ideal wavelengh of the radar and were therefore able to work out the ideal size for the chaff.

Hamburg firestorm

- The aircraft attacked Hamburg at night. First they used Chaff. Later, they bombed the city.
- The ground melted and they had no chance to escape. There was a huge chain of explosions

14. Samuel Morse

Telegraph

- turn on the battery and a current ran down the wire, the electromagnet powered up, and it pulled the castanet (Klapper) toward itself. You heard a click when the switch turned back. Later they replaced the castanet with a bell.
- they had to agree which arrangements of click represent which letters.

Globalization

- synchronize information instantly
- time synchronization
- no horseman were needed anymore
- millions of farmers were forced to take on last names to enlist for taxes.
- movement of armies were coordinated with telegraphs
- newspapers started to retrieve information of foreign correspondents
- diplomats negotiated with telegraphs
- more jobs were available
- train schedules got more accurate
- people were able to make the arrangements to move to other countries (Europeans to America)

15. Thomas Edison

Lightbulb

Problem:

- No one knew how to heat up the metal so long that it glows white, but without melting.
- The filament did not last long
- 0. Try: natural gas
- 1. Try: platinum lamps (very expensive)
- 2. Try: Nickel wires (burned out to fast, too bright) --> filament (Glühfaden)
- 3. Try: Surrounded with vacuum (no oxygen, nothing burns)
- 4. Try: Cork and Cotton threads
- 5. Try: Bamboo fibers (geometrically parallel fibers)

He used bamboo as a filament that would glow for much longer and created a vacuum around it with a glass sphere in order to prevent oxygen from facilitating (erleichtern) the burning process

Benefits:

- The lightbulb made it possible to work longer and more exactly, especially through the night. These inventions were a huge increasing factor for the economy and the lifestyle. (part of the industrial revolution)
- It changed the daily pattern. Working hours didn't depend on natural day light anymore. (shift work)

Electric Motor

- Imagine a clock with just a single long minute hand, which toggles between the three o'clock and nine o'clock position, because of an electric magnet (110 times a second)

Benefits:

- land prices were high, so it made sense to build vertically. (changed the cityscape) -> Electric elevators helped to build that way.
- electricity was also used for amusement parks and many other places (leisure time)
- Electricity was also used for small machines, helping in domestic work (cleaning, carrying, washing -> dish washers, washing machines)
- electric streetcar made commuting more efficient, which impacted on urban development etc. (more commuters = densification of the city center)

16. Watson

RADAR: Radio Detection And Ranging

Watt

- To radio waves the human body is invisible, because the electrons are generally held pretty tight
- The atoms in iron or aluminium are more loosely constructed. Therefore the signal is reflected.
- It was possible to detect enemy airplanes.