

★ Chapter 10 — “The Homebrew Computer Club”

This chapter shows the **birthplace of the personal computer revolution** — a tiny garage meeting where passionate people shared ideas, helped each other, and accidentally created the future of technology.

This club later influenced:

- Apple
- Microsoft
- modern PCs
- software culture
- open-source sharing

It's one of the most important chapters in the whole book.



1. The First Meeting (March 5, 1975)

It was a **rainy night** in Silicon Valley.

About **32 people** sat on the cold floor of **Gordon French's garage**.

Hackers Heroes of the Computer ...

They were:

- engineers
- hobbyists
- students

- curious dreamers
- future legends (like Wozniak!)

Most of them didn't know each other.

The only thing connecting them was one idea:

👉 "We want our own computers at home."

This idea sounded crazy in 1975.



2. The Spark: The Altair 8800

Bob Albrecht brought a strange, blinking machine called the **Altair 8800** to the meeting.

Hackers Heroes of the Computer ...

It was the first cheap computer kit you could buy as an individual.

You had to build it yourself, and it had no screen or keyboard — just flashing lights!

But the moment people saw it, they understood:

👉 This could be the start of personal computers.

The room filled with excitement.



3. Who Were the Homebrew Members?

The chapter describes many types of people:

✓ **Hardware hackers**

Loved building circuits and machines.

✓ **Software tinkerers**

Loved writing code.

✓ Engineers from famous companies (HP, Intel, etc.)

Came after work, secretly learning and sharing.

✓ Total beginners

Just wanted to learn and have fun.

Everyone was welcome.

The environment was **open, friendly, and full of energy**.



4. What Did They Do in the Meetings?

The club had a simple routine:

1 Show & Tell

Anyone could stand up and show what they built:

- homemade computers
- memory boards
- new software
- clever hacks

2 Sharing Information Freely

If someone solved a problem, they would tell everyone.

If someone made software, they would hand out copies.

There was **no secrecy**.

3 Helping Each Other

People traded parts, explained circuits, gave advice, and collaborated.

It felt like a classroom + lab + party.



5. Why Homebrew Was Revolutionary

Before Homebrew:

- ✗ Computers were closed
- ✗ Expensive
- ✗ Controlled by big companies
- ✗ Not accessible

But Homebrew created a new culture:

- ✓ openness
- ✓ sharing
- ✓ learning by doing
- ✓ community building
- ✓ “hands-on” hacking

This culture allowed **rapid innovation** at a speed no company could match.



6. The Birth of Apple Begins Here

One night, a shy young engineer named **Steve Wozniak** came to Homebrew with an idea:
He wanted to build a computer that was:

- small
- cheap
- powerful
- fun

He saw the Altair and thought:

👉 “I can build something better.”

Later he brought the **Apple I** computer to the club.

The club's excitement encouraged him to continue.

Without Homebrew, **Apple might not have been born.**



7. The Club Starts a Revolution

Homebrew didn't try to start a revolution.

It was just a bunch of curious people in a garage.

But its **spirit of sharing** and **DIY innovation** became the **foundation of the personal computing world**.

What started with 32 people on a rainy night became a global shift:

👉 **Computers went from giant machines in labs to personal tools in every home.**



Core Essence in One Sentence

Chapter 10 shows how a simple garage meeting — the Homebrew Computer Club — became the heart of the personal computer revolution, where sharing, enthusiasm, and community turned small ideas into world-changing technology.