



Karen West <karenwest15@gmail.com>

[The Computing Technology Inside Your Smartphone] Overview of week 3

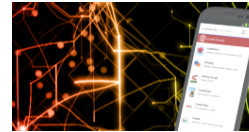
The Computing Technology Inside Your Smartphone <ENGR1210x-no-reply@courseupdates.edx.org>

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To: KarenWest15@gmail.com

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The Computing Technology Inside Your Smartphone



Today we begin the computer organization part of the course. We are jumping up a level in the stack, and over the next few weeks we will be applying our digital logic skills to the design of a computer system. This week we will spend most of our time covering the big picture and less time on the details. Next week, the situation will be reversed as we put together the pieces of our computer design.

This week will begin with the stored program computer, the way that the computer inside our smartphones (and all computers we use) is organized. After discussing the individual components, we'll see how they fit together. We will then move on to the instruction, the fundamental unit of work in a computer. The week will conclude with an overview of the hardware required to support two instructions: an Add that performs addition and a Load that obtains data from memory. After this week's overview, we'll be prepared to get much more into the details of instructions and hardware design next week.

The Jade labs culminate in the design of a register file, which we use to hold data on which we perform operations. We will continue to provide lab solutions for use in your designs if you were not able to complete those particular labs or experienced browser issues with saving and reloading. If you are more interested in using Jade for the computer organization part of the course, you can use these pre-designed components to build up your computer system.

While all assignments are not due until May 12th, one week after the course concludes, we strongly encourage you to follow the suggested due dates in the [course schedule](#). If you have recently joined, or have fallen behind, the May 12th due date allows you to catch up, particularly with the labs. The last week of the course has no required labs and you have one week after that to complete them.

As always, we are here to answer your questions. Be sure to use #SmartphoneMOOC when tweeting about the course.

On behalf of the course staff, good luck and have fun!

Dave



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edX
141 Portland Street
Cambridge, MA, USA 02139

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