

What do you love most about computing?

What I love most about computing is its incredible power to amplify human potential. Computing is more than just ones and zeros; it's about creating tools that enhance our lives, enable us to solve complex problems, and foster meaningful connections across the globe. What excites me is the idea of computing not just as a set of instructions but as a dynamic partner that collaborates with us, adapting to our needs and empowering us to push beyond conventional boundaries. Norbert Wiener's work comes to mind—a pioneer who recognised the profound societal impact of technology and advocated for its ethical use to make life better for everyone. His ideas about the interplay between humans and machines remind me that the true potential of computing lies in its ability to serve, support, and elevate humanity, not just the technical aspects that it enables.

2. If you could meet any scientist or engineer who died before A.D. 2000, whom would you choose, and why?

I would choose Norbert Wiener, the father of cybernetics. What draws me to Wiener is how ahead of his time he was—not just in his technical achievements but in his ethical concerns about technology's role in society. While his book *Cybernetics* had me Googling most of the terms, the core ideas stuck with me: the interconnectedness of systems, feedback loops, and how technology could both empower and endanger humanity, depending on how it's used.

Wiener wasn't just building systems; he was thinking about their societal impact, advocating for technology that serves everyone, not just the powerful. In a time when AI and automation dominate conversations about the future, his warnings about dehumanisation and inequality feel very relevant. I'd want to ask him how he imagined we could balance innovation with ethics in a world where technology evolves faster than our ability to regulate it. Meeting Wiener would be like sitting down with someone who not only understood the science, but cared deeply about its human implications. A perspective I think we could all use more of today.