As the title implies the article describes central processing units.

It is given a detailed history of microprocessors elaboration from first microprocessor Intel 4004 developed in 1970.

Much attention is given to technologies that provides elaboration of microprocessors, such as miniaturization of transistors that described by aforementioned Moore's law.

It is spoken in detail about main CPU operations such as fetch, decode and execute.

It is shown how fetch operation retrieves an instruction from program memory.

The text gives valuable information about decoding operation, include information about choosing needed instruction from instruction set architecture.

It is stressed about executing commands, CPU registers, input/output memory mechanism and manipulate instructions called “jumps”.

The following conclusions are drawn about normal CPU work cycle.

The article is of interest to beginner specialists in the field of IT.