The Electronic Discrete Variable Automatic Computer (EDVAC) was one of the earliest electronic general-purpose computers. It was designed in the mid-1940s and became operational in 1951. Here are some key features, as well as its areas of application:

**Time of Invention:** The concept for EDVAC was developed during World War II, and the design work was carried out at the University of Pennsylvania's Moore School of Electrical Engineering. The machine became operational in 1951.

**Key Features:**

1. **Stored Program Concept:** EDVAC was one of the first computers to use the stored program concept. This means that both data and instructions were stored in the same memory, allowing the computer to be reprogrammed for different tasks without having to change the hardware.
2. **Binary Arithmetic:** EDVAC operated using binary arithmetic, which means it used a base-2 numbering system (0s and 1s) for computations.
3. **Vacuum Tubes:** Like many early computers, EDVAC used vacuum tubes for its electronic circuitry. This made it relatively large, power-hungry, and prone to frequent failures.
4. **Mercury Delay Line Memory:** It used a form of early memory technology known as mercury delay line memory. This involved sending sound waves through a column of mercury to store and retrieve data.
5. **Sequential Execution:** EDVAC operated in a sequential manner, meaning it executed instructions one at a time in a specific order.

**Areas of Application:** EDVAC, like many early computers, was a versatile machine that could be programmed for various tasks. Some of the key areas of application were:

1. **Scientific and Engineering Calculations:** EDVAC was used for scientific and engineering computations, including tasks such as numerical analysis, simulations, and solving differential equations.
2. **Military Applications:** Given its development during World War II, EDVAC was initially used for military purposes, including calculations for ballistics, cryptography, and other wartime applications.
3. **Codebreaking:** It played a role in early codebreaking efforts, especially for organizations like the U.S. Army Signal Corps and the U.S. Navy.
4. **Research and Development:** EDVAC was used in various research projects, contributing to advancements in a wide range of scientific disciplines.
5. **Data Processing and Information Handling:** It was employed for tasks involving data processing and information handling, which were vital in scientific research, military applications, and various industries.
6. **Early Computer Science Research:** EDVAC played a crucial role in the development of early computer science, serving as a platform for testing and refining programming techniques and algorithms.

As more advanced computers were developed, EDVAC and machines of its era became obsolete for contemporary computing tasks. However, its legacy in the history of computing is significant, as it represented a major leap forward in electronic computation and served as a blueprint for subsequent computer designs.