The first counting tools people used were sticks and stones. However, as the human mind developed over time, new computing devices were designed starting with the invention of the abacus in China. It was used to perform basic arithmetical operations – addition, subtraction, multiplication, division. The first mechanical adding machine, the Pascaline, was built by Blaise Pascal, a French mathematician and scientist, between 1642 and 1644. The Pascaline was able to perform addition and subtraction in short time.   
  
The first machine resembling today’s modern computers was The Analytical Engine designed in the 1830s by British mathematician Charles Babbage who is often called the father of the computer. However, it wasn’t until the middle of the 20th century that a major breakthrough in computing technology was made. In 1936 Konrad Zuse, a German engineer, developed the Z1 machine, the first programmable mechanical computing device.   
  
The first generation of computers, which used vacuum tubes, came out in the 1940s. The milestone event was the invention of ENIAC he first general-purpose electronic digital computer working on vacuum tubes. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the second generation of computers was developed and could work ten times faster than their predecessors. The reason for this high speed was the use of transistors instead of vacuum tubes. The third-generation computers appeared on the market between 1965 and 1972. These computers could do a million calculations per second, which is 1000 times faster than the first-generation computers. In the fourth-generation computers, integrated circuits were greatly reduced in size, which was due to microminiaturization. The fifth generation of computers, which is being developed nowadays, is based on parallel processing and Artificial Intelligence, a technology that has many potential applications around the world.