On March 24th 2001, Apple revealed to the world the Mac OS X 10.0 operating system, which provided users the benefits of protected memory architecture and pre-emptive multi-tasking, among other benefits. Holding a hefty 1500 mb hard drive space, it was not uncommon for Mac OS X 10.0 to take a substantial time to boot. Shortly after in October 25th of the same year, Microsoft rolled out their revolutionary Windows XP, which had a significantly redesigned GUI, and many benefits including a built in firewall.

On September 23rd 2003 AMD released Athlon 64 to the global consumer markets, the Athlon 64 was the first 64-bit processor in history, as well as having the option to be backward compatible with 32-bit instructions.

On November 9th 2004, Mozilla challenged Microsoft's dominant Web browser, Internet Explorer, by introducing Firefox 1.0, a new web browser which included multi-tab browsing. In February of 2004, Mark Zuckerberg and his Harvard University acquaintances started Facebook, a brand new social media website.

On February 14th 2005, a brand new video sharing service, called Youtube, was born. Youtube allows users to upload, download, watch, like, dislike, report and share videos, as well as adding them to playlists. Youtube is used by both independent users and multinational companies alike. Later in the year, Google bought Android, a startup Linux based mobile phone OS, which begun the ‘boom’ in Googles success.

Early January of 2006 saw the release of Apple’s MacBook Pro, a portable computer which was Apple’s first Intel-based, dual-core portable computer. In September, Mark Zuckerberg and his colleagues released Facebook to the public, amassing 12 million users by the end of the year. Towards the end of 2006, in November, Nintendo had once again, provided the market with a brand new gaming console, the Wii. It is composed of C++ and bolstered an internal flash memory of 512mb, as well as having the option for extra memory storage, via SD card.

Apple shook the world with the iPhone, or as Steve Jobs called it, the “revolutionary mobile phone”, which was released in June of 2007. Although it was not the first smartphone, with phones such as LG Prada and Nokia N95, already being in the market, the iPhone, however, exceeded all of its competition. The iPhone had essentially become a mobile phone, camera, mp3 player and computer all in one. It was the beginning of the data boom, which still holds true to this day. From the release date of the first gen iPhone until this very moment, more people use smartphones to listen to music than mp3 players, more people use mobile data to speak to people than cellular calls, more people browse the web using smartphones than using computers. It truly changed the whole market.

Microsoft released Windows 7 in 2009. Users were now able to pin their apps to the taskbar, giving more space across the screen. There was also an improvement on touch, as well as handwriting recognition. Also included in Windows 7 was the action centre, which would notify the user of the system message queue, however, it was programmed so that the user could tend to the system messages in their own time, and not be forced to do so by windows, adding more freedom to Windows 7.

Apple once again made a statement to the tech world in 2010 with the release of the iPad. In appearance it looked like a very large iPhone, but with a deeper look into its specs, it would function like a computer. Spreadsheets, emailing, web browsing and many, many more computer functions were available on the iPad. The brilliance of it all is that it was essentially a computer, yet everything but a computer. A touch screened mobile device with a wide screen and a touch keyboard, mimicking its relative, the iPhone physically, but on a larger scale, as well as a significantly larger storage space, with a 64GB flash memory option. It was very easy to use and inevitably boomed the tablet market for years to come. Facebook purchased Instagram, a social media app in October 2010.

The iPhone 4s in 2011 saw the introduction of Siri, a built in function in the iPhone 4s and for all successors of this iPhone. Siri was a voice activated assistant AI. It had many functions such as providing answers to users questions (by searching the web), and voiced directions by using the web or the iPhone’s built in navigation system, as well as many other helpful functions.

Mark Zuckerberg’s Facebook had gained 1 billion users as of October 4th 2012, a long way from its initial 12 million users 6 years prior.

2013 saw the release of two colossal gaming consoles, the Xbox One from Microsoft, and the PlayStation 4 from Sony. Microsoft’s Xbox One had a unique Kinect movement-based gaming option, by using a wide time of flight type camera, it would also process 2 gigabits of data every second to understand the location and exact movement of the user. Both the Xbox One and PlayStation 4 had the options of streaming videos on the internet, as well as sharing videos on the internet. As well as the option to play games on hard disk, or to download them from the respective online stores for both consoles. Unlike Sony’s PlayStation 4, the Xbox One had no backward compatibility for Microsoft’s previous game console titles.

HTML 5 was finally released after the 27 year reign of HTML 4, standard for web markup languages. These languages explain how websites function and appear. It was intended to be simple to read for the human eye. It also had better error handling than HTML 4, as well as supporting multimedia, like streaming videos into websites.

Apple’s iOS OS was implemented into a watch in 2015. The Apple Watch hosted sensors for health monitoring, as well as the options to check your mail and Siri, just to name a few. As great as it was, it did however have quite a poor battery life.

In 2016, we saw the birth of the very first reprogrammable quantum computer. It had the ability to program an infinite amount of new algorithms to its system.

2017 had DARPA ( Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency  ) Developing a new Molecular informatics which used molecules from chemistry as computers, offering a “rich palette of molecular diversity that may yield a vast design space to enable dense data representations and highly versatile computing concepts outside of traditional digital, logic-based approaches” – Dr. Anne Fischer.

NextMind, a new TV remote which is worn on the head, it tracks electric pulses and brain activity in the users brain. By processing the brain waves, it translates them into commands, allowing the user to essentially think if what they want to do, be it switch channels, turn up the volume, etc. and NextMind will read the brain waves, and perform the instructed command.