

Document 0022

[20022001]

(During its centennial year , The Wall Street Journal will report events of the past century that stand as milestones of American business history .)

[20022002]

THREE COMPUTERS THAT CHANGED the face of personal computing were launched in 1977 .

[20022003]

That year the Apple II , Commodore Pet and Tandy TRS-80 came to market .

[20022004]

The computers were crude by today 's standards .

[20022005]

Apple II owners , for example , had to use their television sets as screens and stored data on audiocassettes .

[20022007]

In addition , the Apple II was an affordable \$ 1,298 .

[20022009]

Big mainframe computers for business had been around for years .

[20022011]

Current PCs are more than 50 times faster and have memory capacity 500 times greater than their 1977 counterparts .

[20022012]

There were many pioneer PC contributors .

[20022014]

Alan F. Shugart , currently chairman of Seagate Technology , led the team that developed the disk drives for PCs .

[20022016]

IBM , the world leader in computers , did n't offer its first PC until August 1981 as many other companies entered the market .

[20022017]

Today , PC shipments annually total some \$ 38.3 billion world-wide .