

**FROM ZERO TO ONE**

# Chapter 1

***Digital Design and Computer Architecture, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition***

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**FROM ZERO TO ONE**

## Chapter 1 :: Topics

- **Background**
- **The Game Plan**
- **The Art of Managing Complexity**
- **The Digital Abstraction**
- **Number Systems**
- **Logic Gates**
- **Logic Levels**
- **CMOS Transistors**
- **Power Consumption**

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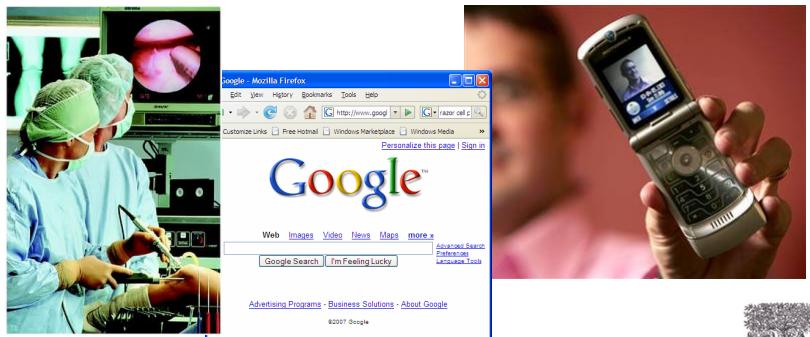
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## Background

- Microprocessors have revolutionized our world
  - Cell phones, Internet, rapid advances in medicine, etc.
- The semiconductor industry has grown from \$21 billion in 1985 to \$300 billion in 2011



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## The Game Plan

- Purpose of course:
  - Understand what's under the hood of a computer
  - Learn the principles of digital design
  - Learn to systematically debug increasingly complex designs
  - Design and build a microprocessor



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## The Art of Managing Complexity

- Abstraction
- Discipline
- The Three –Y’s
  - Hierarchy
  - Modularity
  - Regularity

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## Abstraction

- Hiding details when they aren’t important

focus of this course

Application Software	>"hello world!"
Operating Systems	
Architecture	
Micro-architecture	
Logic	
Digital Circuits	
Analog Circuits	
Devices	
Physics	

programs

device drivers

instructions  
registers

datapaths  
controllers

adders  
memories

AND gates  
NOT gates

amplifiers  
filters

transistors  
diodes

electrons

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## Discipline

- Intentionally restrict design choices
- Example: Digital discipline
  - Discrete voltages instead of continuous
  - Simpler to design than analog circuits – can build more sophisticated systems
  - Digital systems replacing analog predecessors:
    - i.e., digital cameras, digital television, cell phones, CDs

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## The Three -Y's

- **Hierarchy**
  - A system divided into modules and submodules
- **Modularity**
  - Having well-defined functions and interfaces
- **Regularity**
  - Encouraging uniformity, so modules can be easily reused

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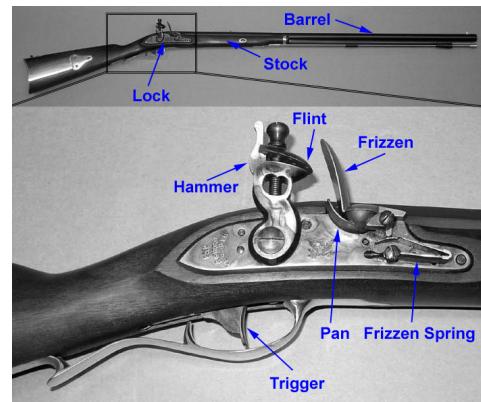
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## Example: The Flintlock Rifle

- **Hierarchy**

- Three main modules: lock, stock, and barrel
- Submodules of lock: hammer, flint, frizzen, etc.

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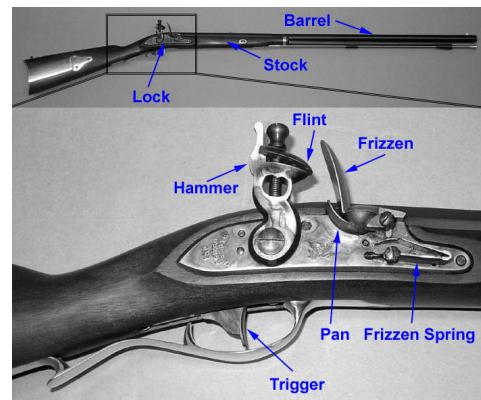
## Example: The Flintlock Rifle

- **Modularity**

- Function of stock: mount barrel and lock
- Interface of stock: length and location of mounting pins

- **Regularity**

- Interchangeable parts

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## The Digital Abstraction

- Most physical variables are **continuous**
  - Voltage on a wire
  - Frequency of an oscillation
  - Position of a mass
- Digital abstraction considers **discrete subset** of values

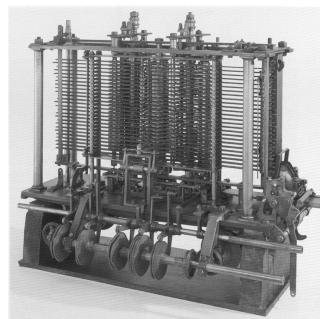
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## The Analytical Engine

- Designed by Charles Babbage from 1834 – 1871
- Considered to be the first digital computer
- Built from mechanical gears, where each gear represented a discrete value (0-9)
- Babbage died before it was finished



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## Digital Discipline: Binary Values

- **Two discrete values:**
  - 1's and 0's
  - 1, TRUE, HIGH
  - 0, FALSE, LOW
- **1 and 0:** voltage levels, rotating gears, fluid levels, etc.
- Digital circuits use **voltage** levels to represent 1 and 0
- **Bit:** *Binary digit*

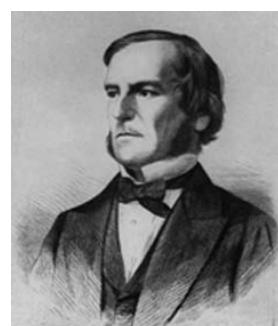
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## George Boole, 1815-1864

- Born to working class parents
- Taught himself mathematics and joined the faculty of Queen's College in Ireland.
- Wrote *An Investigation of the Laws of Thought* (1854)
- Introduced binary variables
- Introduced the three fundamental logic operations: AND, OR, and NOT.

GEORGE BOOLE  
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