Although the Intel 8086 CPU microprocessor was not the first of its kind, it was the first microprocessor that allowed users to compute portably. This microprocessor was introduced in June of 1978 with a clock speed between 4.77 and 10 MHz and 29,000 transistors. Almost exactly a year later, in June of 1979, the Intel 8088 was introduced with a smaller clock speed range of 4.77 to 8 MHz and 29,000 transistors. This was the microprocessor that gave way to personal desktop computers from IBM and similar desktop clones. However, in February of 1982, Intel was able to make some slight improvements to their models from the late 1970s, with the introduction of the 80286. This microprocessor had a clock speed of 6 to 12 MHz and more than doubled the quantity of transistors at 134,000. It was not until October of 1985 that Intel began creating a significantly more efficient microprocessor. This was the Intel386 DX processor, with a clock speed between 16 and 33 MHz and 275,000 transistors, later followed by the Intel386 SX in June 1988 with similar specifications. These microprocessors were later improved in the 1990s with the Intel486 DX and Intel486 SX, which eventually led to the height of this generation with the IntelDX4 of March 1994. This microprocessor had a clock speed of 75-100 MHz and 1.6 million transistors. The next generation of Intel’s microprocessors was the Intel Pentium generation. The first Intel Pentium was introduced in March 1993 with 60 to 66 MHz and 3.1 million transistors. Over the next two decades, many improvements were made to the Intel Pentium, and by January 2006, consumers were purchasing desktop computers with microprocessors that had a clock speed of 3.73 GHz and 376 million transistors, also known as the Intel Pentium Dual Core. There was also an Intel Pentium Dual Core for mobile PCs, introduced in January 2007, with 1.60 GHz and 176 million transistors. From here, Intel began to produce their Core processor. This was first introduced in March 2006, but one of the best of the decade was introduced two years later in November 2008. This was the Intel Core i7, which had a clock speed range of 2.66 to 3.20 GHz and 731 million transistors. In December of the same year, the Intel Core 2 Duo was also being produced for mobile PCs with clock speeds between 2 and 2.93 GHz and 410 million transistors. Since 2008, most of our desktops and laptops use some variation of the Intel Core, and Intel has even introduced the Core i9. The best of the Intel Core i9, introduced in January 2022, has a clock speed range between 5 to 5.10 GHz and over 10 billion transistors.

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