Introduction. “We’re Bits Please…. Our topic is …”

So with our topic most people would be inclined to think of a person; perhaps…[List]

But we had something else in mind…

We think War has made the greatest contribution to the development of computing.

We consider this a prime example of societal determinism, whereby a necessity generated from society has provided the impetus to develop technology.

War and the military have allowed many projects and technological developments to progress beyond the Funding Gap Chasm.

Take for example the case of Alan Turing. Turing is famous for creating one of the first computers known as BOMBE, this device was designed to crack the German Enigma code. This was necessary for the gathering of intelligence. In warfare terms intelligence is key and thus the potential for a technology that could reliably provide them German secrets. This is an example of societal Determinism. We hypothesise that had it not been for the war Turing’s Vision may never have manifested itself or at the very least been severely delayed. Had Turing not given us the computer when he did what could the knock on effect have been on the further technological developments we have seen.

If we contrast Turing with Charles Babbage who had also envisioned computing devices but was unable to bring his vision due to the time in which he lived, for Babbage the shortcoming was not there to develop his computer, what if Turing hadn’t the funding or backing to bring his idea to life?

Telegraph likened to the internet of its time. During the civil war it revolutionised communication from the battlefield. Communication had become much quicker, no longer