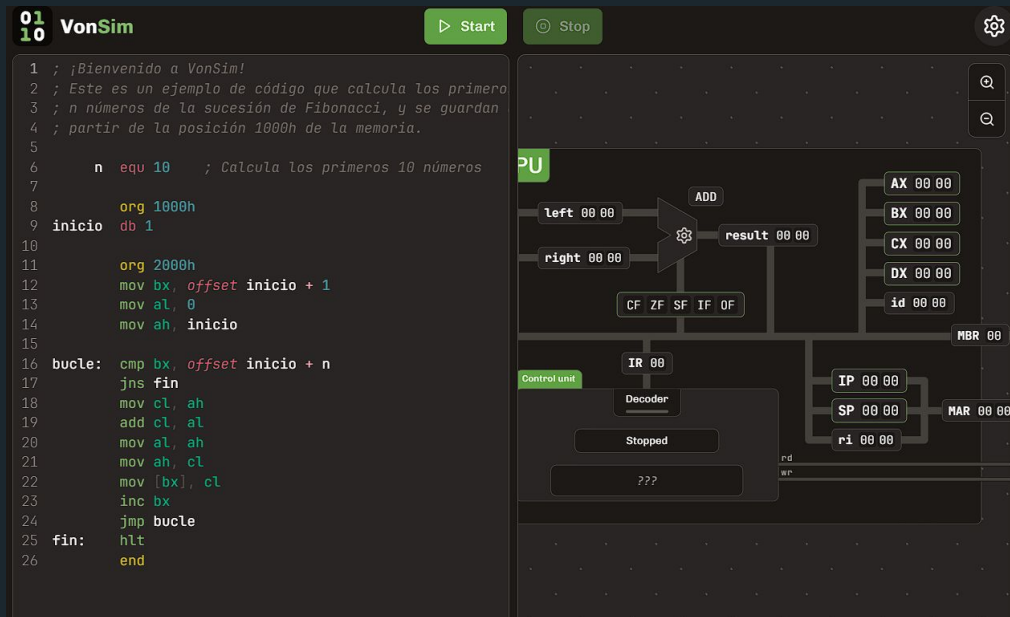


# VonSim

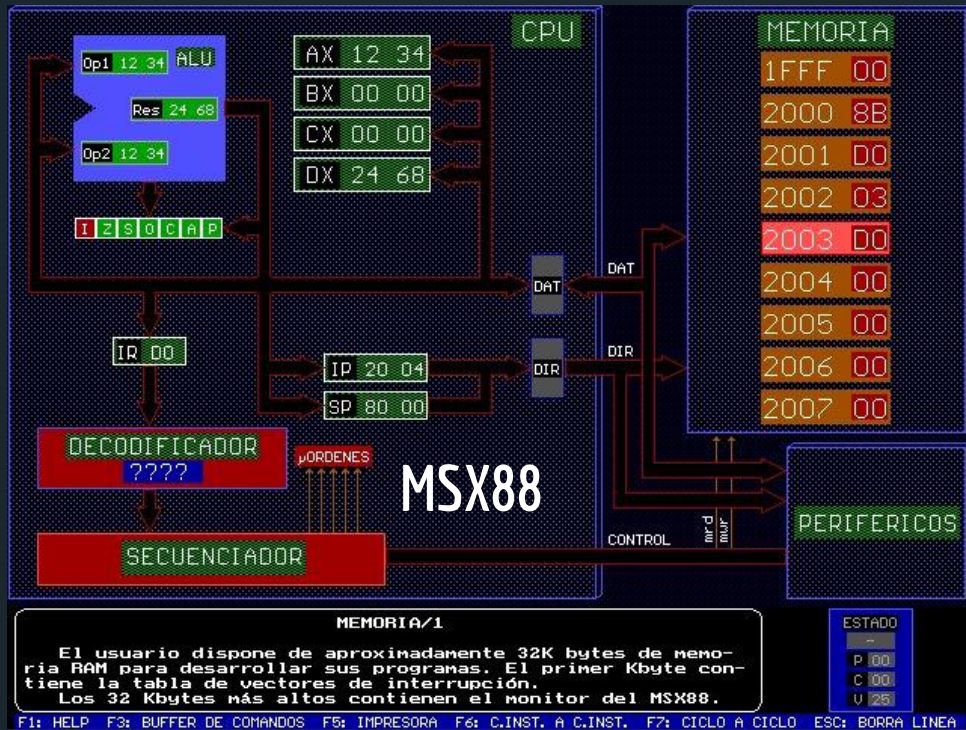
## Educational Simulator for Assembly








# Context

- Informatics School
  - Universidad Nacional de La Plata
- Courses that teach Assembly
  - Computer Organization
  - Computer Architecture
- -1500 students per year
- Previously: **MSX88** simulator
  - VonSim 1: 2017
  - VonSim 2: 2023





<https://vonsim.github.io/>

- Web App 
- IDE 
  - Compile & Ex 
  - Debug 
- Simplified Architecture 
- Component Visualization 
  - I/O Devices 
- Integrated Examples 
- Mobile/Tablet mode 

0110 VonSim

▶ Start

⏹ Stop

⚙

```
1 ; ¡Bienvenido a VonSim!
2 ; Este es un ejemplo de código que calcula los primeros
3 ; n números de la sucesión de Fibonacci, y se guardan
4 ; partir de la posición 1000h de la memoria.
5
6     n equ 10    ; Calcula los primeros 10 números
7
8     org 1000h
9 inicio db 1
10
11     org 2000h
12     mov bx, offset inicio + 1
13     mov al, 0
14     mov ah, inicio
15
16 bucle: cmp bx, offset inicio + n
17        jns fin
18     mov cl, ah
19     add cl, al
20     mov al, ah
21     mov ah, cl
22     mov [bx], cl
23     inc bx
24     jmp bucle
25 fin:   hlt
26        end
```

PU

left 00 00

right 00 00

ADD

result 00 00

CF ZF SF IF OF

AX 00 00

BX 00 00

CX 00 00

DX 00 00

id 00 00

MBR 00

IR 00

Decoder

Stopped

???

IP 00 00

SP 00 00

ri 00 00

MAR 00 00

rd

wr

No file open

Ready to compile

Documentation

GitHub

Report an issue

© Copyright 2017-2025 — I11-L1D1, F1, UNLP

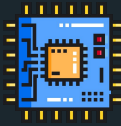


# IDE

- Syntax Coloring
- Continuous compilation
- Detailed error messages with visual feedback

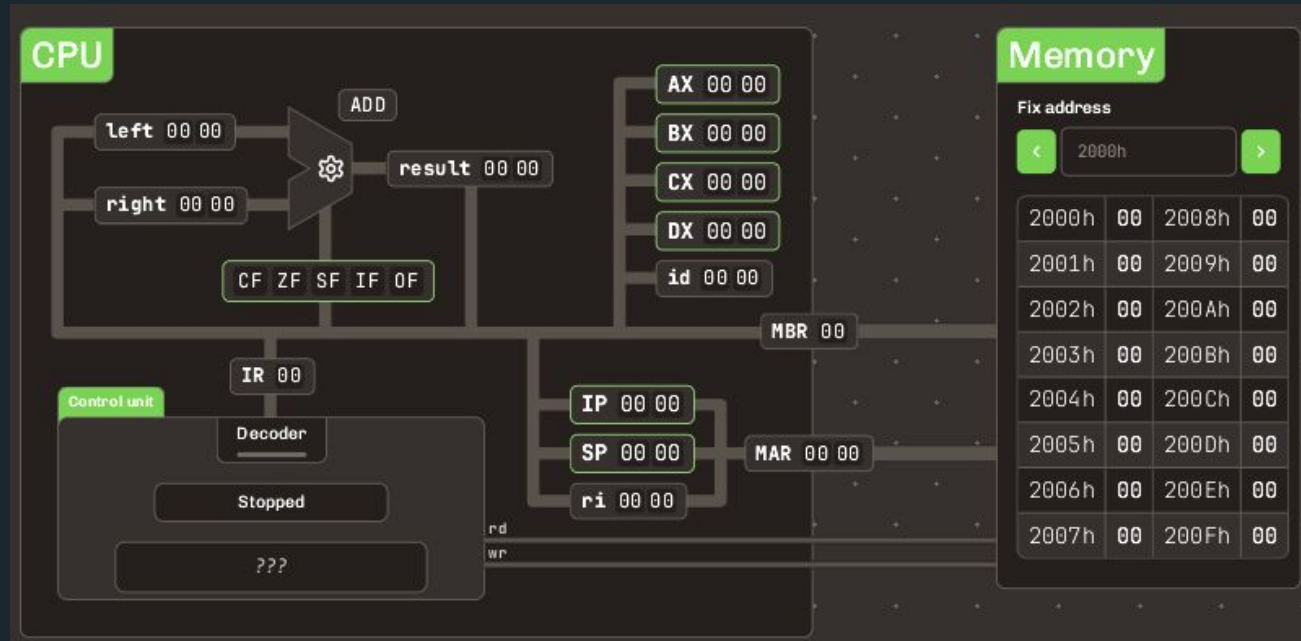
```
5
6 loop:    cmp bx, offset start + n
7          jns finish
8          mov cl, ah
9          add cl, al
0          mov al, ah
1          mov ah, cl
2          mov [bx], cl
3          inc bx
4          jmp loop
5 finish:  hlt
6          end
```

Label "LOOP" has not been defined.



# CPU/Memory

- 8 half registers - 8 bits each: AL, AH, BL, BH, CL, CH, DL, DH
  - Can be addressed as 4 16-bit registers: AX, BX, CX, DX
  - Low/high parts
- Especial state registers
- ALU
- Memory: 16838 bytes
  - 16 bit addresses





# Simplified 8088 Assembly

- **ORG <ADDRESS>**
  - Explicit starting address for code/data
- **END**
- **MOV dest, source**
  - Data transfers
- **OP dest[, source]**
  - OP = ADD | SUB | OR | AND | XOR | NEG | NOR
- **hlt**
  - Stop execution

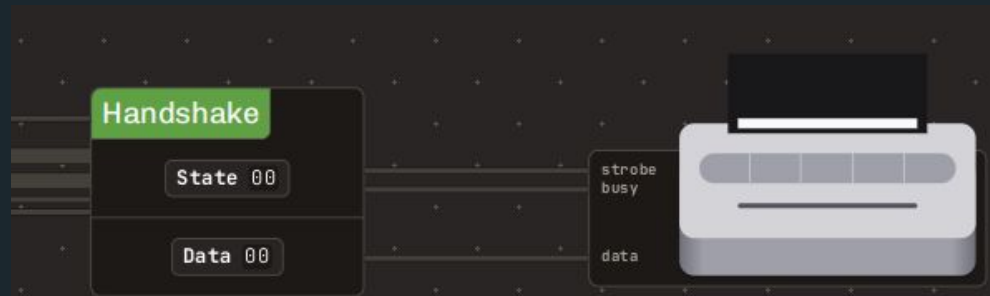
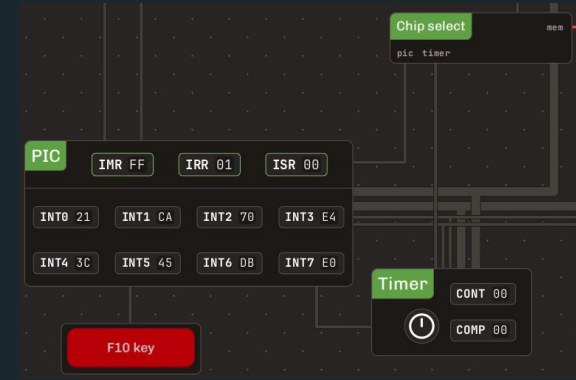
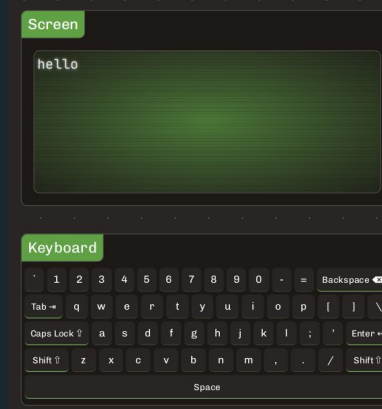
Compute  $C = A + B$

```
1 | ; DATA
2  org 1000h
3  A  db 5
4  B  db 3
5  C  db ? ; no init
6
7  ;2000h: default address
8  ; to start executing code
9  org 2000h
10 mov al, A
11 add al, B
12 mov C, al ; C = A + B
13 hlt
14 end
```

# Device I/O

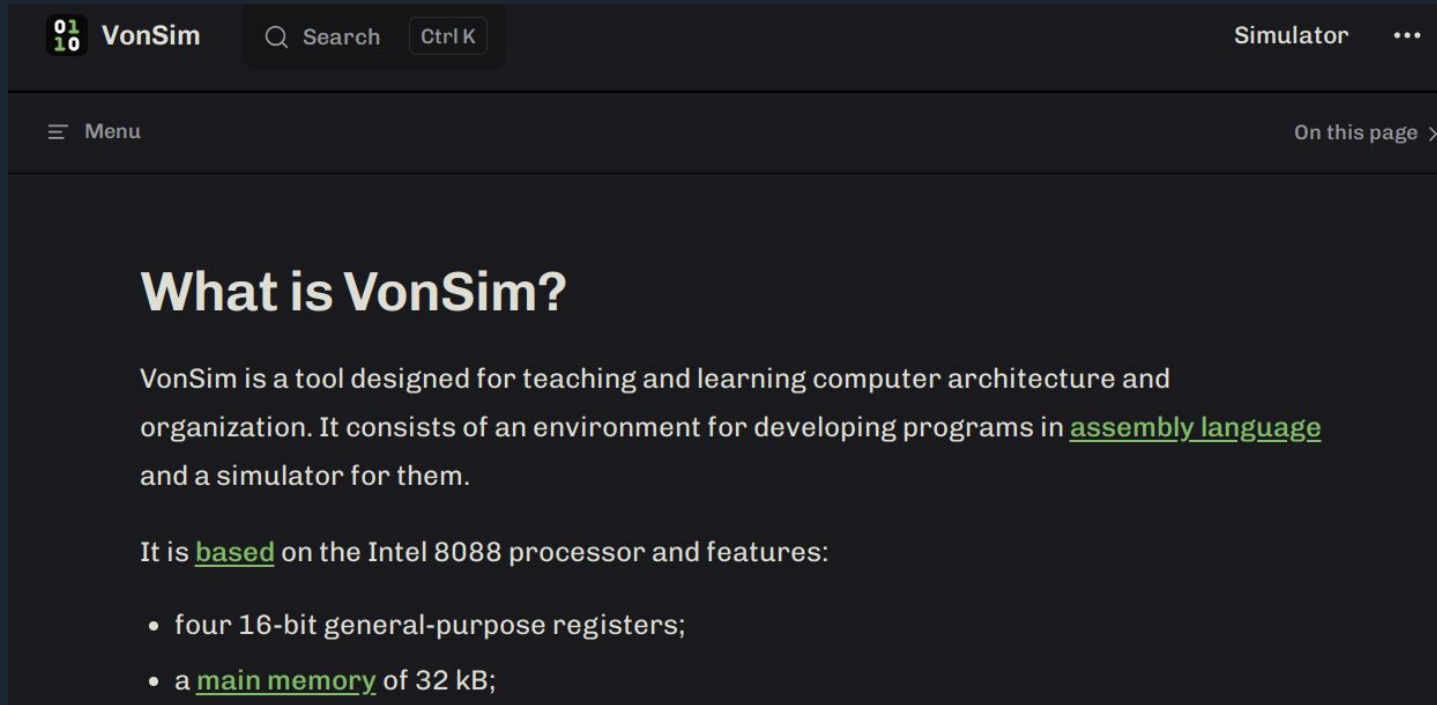


- Keyboard & Screen
- PIC
  - → Timer
  - → F10 Button
  - → HANDSHAKE
- PIO
  - → LEDs & Switches
  - → Printer
- HANDSHAKE
  - → Printer





# VonSim 2 Docs



<https://vonsim.github.io/en/>

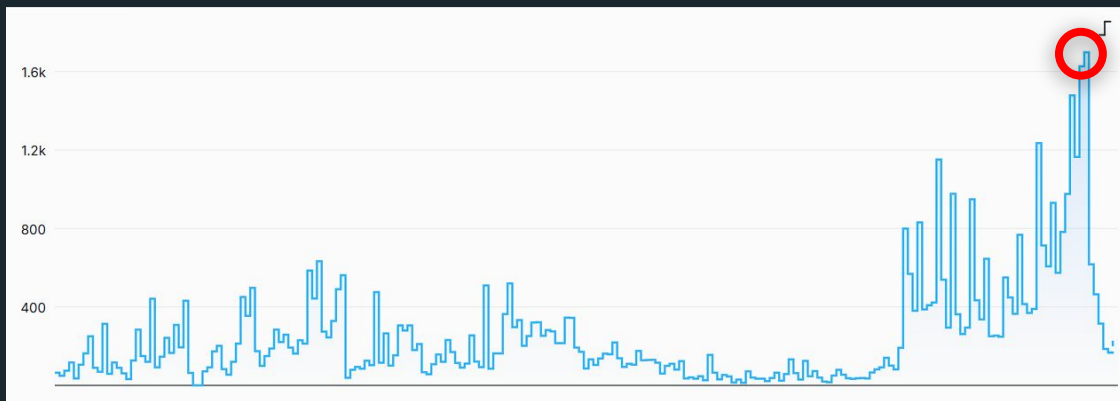




# VonSim 2 Usage statistics

- Via OneDollarStats (2025/03 - 2025/10)

## Visits per day



## Devices

Devices		Browser	OS	Device
Device type		Visits		
Desktop		27.1k		
Mobile		6.29k		
Tablet		174		
Unknown		35		

# VonSim 2 Team



**Juan Seery**

<https://github.com/JuanM04>



**Facundo Quiroga**

<https://github.com/facundoq>



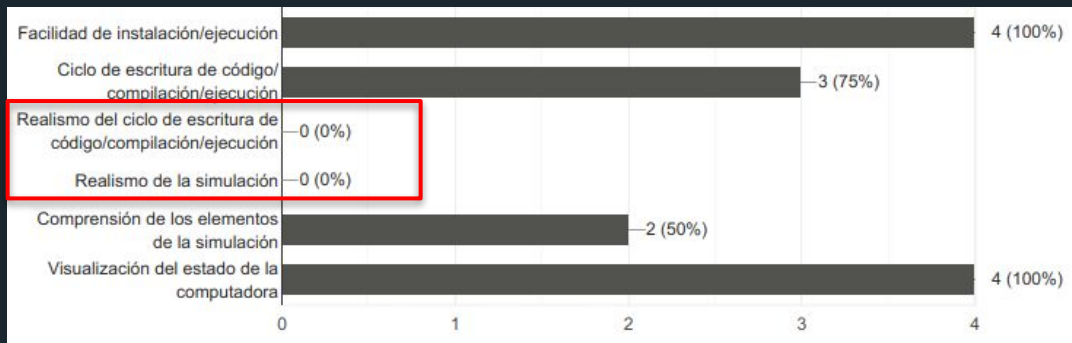
<https://github.com/vonsim/vonsim>



# Evaluación docente

- Encuesta inicial (n=4)
- Uso mixto de ambos simuladores desde 2018

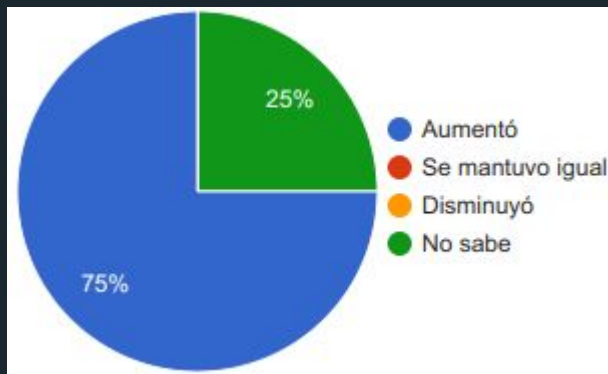
## Vonsim (vs MSX88)



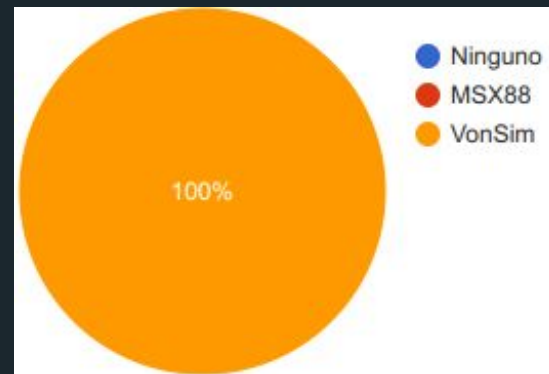
## Motivación general



## Tiempo de práctica



## Simulador recomendado

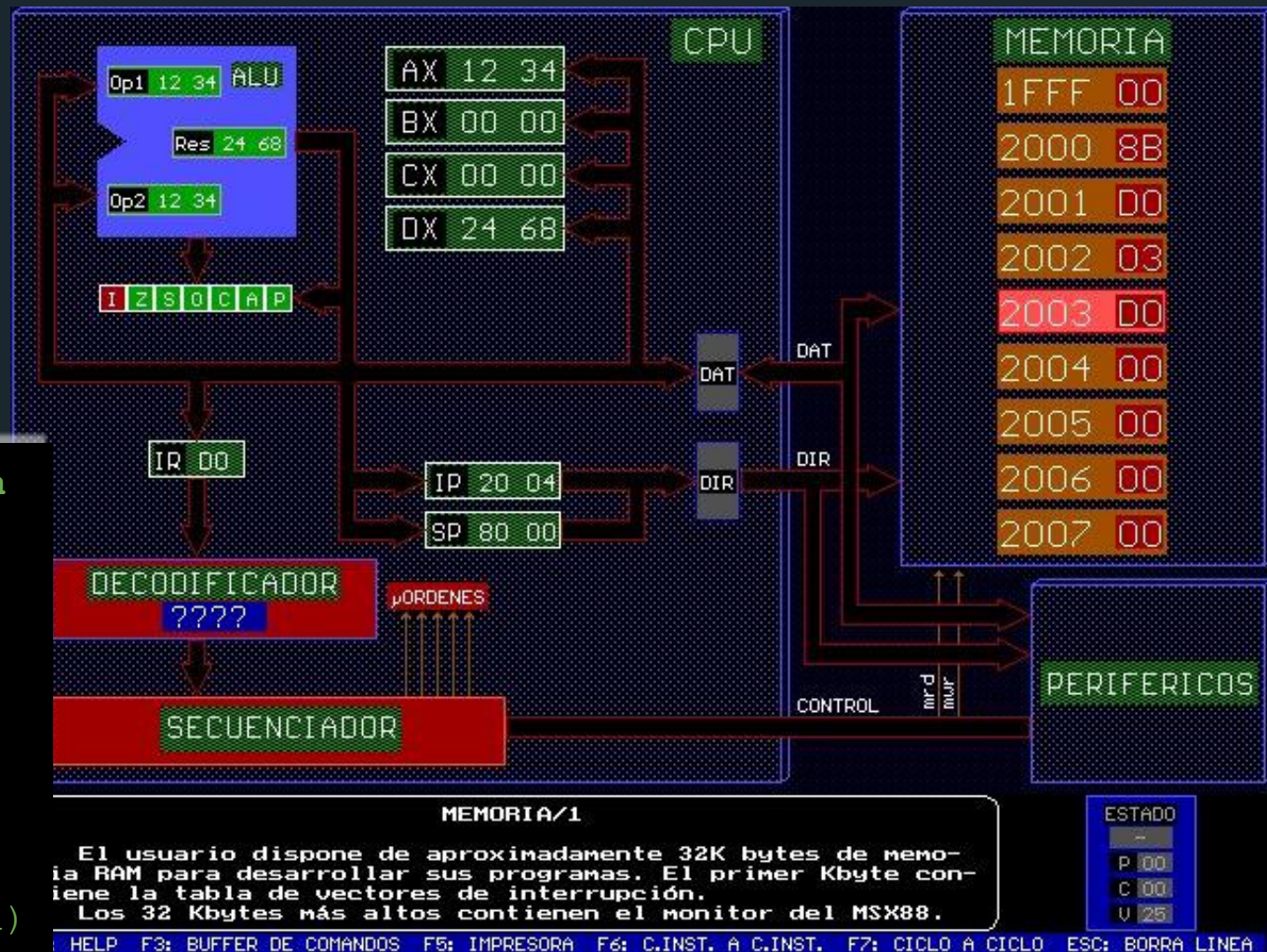




# MSX88

- 1990
- Console only
- Windows/Wine
- No editor

```
> asm88.exe foo.asm
foo.O generado
> link88 foo.O
foo.eje generado
> msx88
(abre simulador)
>> l foo
(carga programa)
>> g
(comienza ejecución)
```

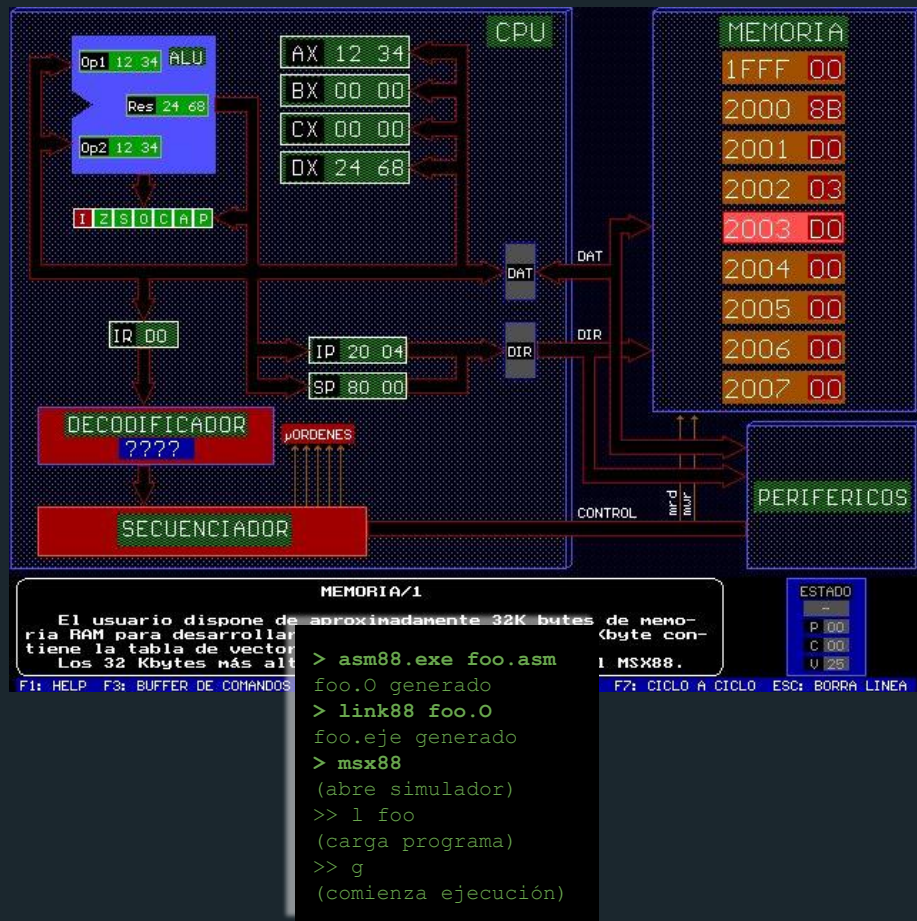






# MSX88

- Pedagogical Challenges
  - Confusing error messages
  - Long compile/test cycle
- Practical difficulties
  - Does not work in mobile/tablet
  - Requires use of console





# Data transfer animations

01  
10 VonSim

▶ Start

⏹ Stop

```
1 ; Welcome to VonSim!  
2 ; This is an example program that calculates the first  
3 ; n numbers of the Fibonacci sequence, and stores them  
4 ; starting at memory position 1000h.  
5  
6     n equ 10 ; Calculate the first 10 numbers  
7  
8     org 1000h  
9 start db 1  
10  
11     org 2000h  
12     mov bx, offset start + 1  
13     mov al, 0  
14     mov ah, start  
15  
16 loop:  cmp bx, offset start + n  
17         jns finish  
18     mov cl, ah  
19     add cl, al
```

CPU



Memory

Addresses			
1000h	01	2000h	00
2000h	02	3000h	00
3000h	03	4000h	00
4000h	04	5000h	00
5000h	05	6000h	00
6000h	06	7000h	00
7000h	07	8000h	00
8000h	08	9000h	00
9000h	09	A000h	00
A000h	0A	B000h	00
B000h	0B	C000h	00
C000h	0C	D000h	00
D000h	0D	E000h	00
E000h	0E	F000h	00



# Instruction by instruction execution

01  
10 VonSim

▶ Start

⏸ Stop

```
1 ; Welcome to VonSim!
2 ; This is an example program that calculates the first
3 ; n numbers of the Fibonacci sequence, and stores them
4 ; starting at memory position 1000h.
5
6     n equ 10    ; Calculate the first 10 numbers
7
8     org 1000h
9     start db 1
10
11     org 2000h
12     mov bx, offset start + 1
13     mov al, 0
14     mov ah, start
15
16 loop:  cmp bx, offset start + n
17         jns finish
18         mov cl, ah
19         add cl, al
```

CPU



Memory

Addresses			
1000h	01	2000h	00
2000h	00	3000h	00
3000h	00	4000h	00
4000h	00	5000h	00
5000h	00	6000h	00
6000h	00	7000h	00
7000h	00	8000h	00
8000h	00	9000h	00
9000h	00	A000h	00
A000h	00	B000h	00
B000h	00	C000h	00
C000h	00	D000h	00
D000h	00	E000h	00
E000h	00	F000h	00





# Quick run without animations

01 VonSim

```
1 ; Welcome to VonSim!
2 ; This is an example program that calculates the first
3 ; n numbers of the Fibonacci sequence, and stores them
4 ; starting at memory position 1000h.
5
6     n equ 10    ; Calculate the first 10 numbers
7
8     org 1000h
9     start db 1
10
11     org 2000h
12     mov bx, offset start + 1
13     mov al, 0
14     mov ah, start
15
16 loop:  cmp bx, offset start + n
17        jns finish
18        mov cl, ah
19        add cl, al
20        mov al, ah
21        mov ah, cl
22        mov [bx], cl
23        inc bx
24        jmp loop
25 finish: hlt
26 end
```

▶ Start

⏏ Stop

> One cycle F7

» One instruction F8

∞ Until stop F9

CPU



Memory

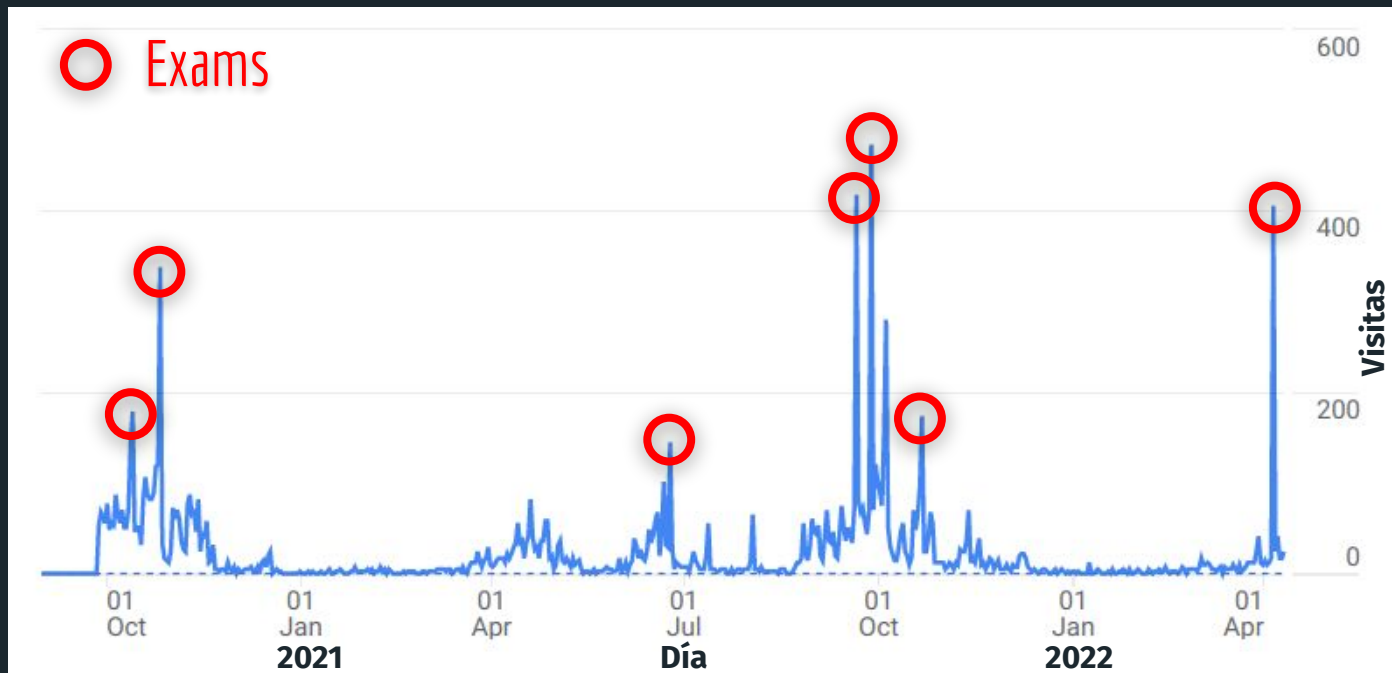
Addresses			
0000h	02	2000h	04
0001h	00	2001h	00
0002h	00	2002h	00
0003h	00	2003h	00
0004h	00	2004h	00
0005h	00	2005h	00
0006h	00	2006h	00
0007h	00	2007h	00



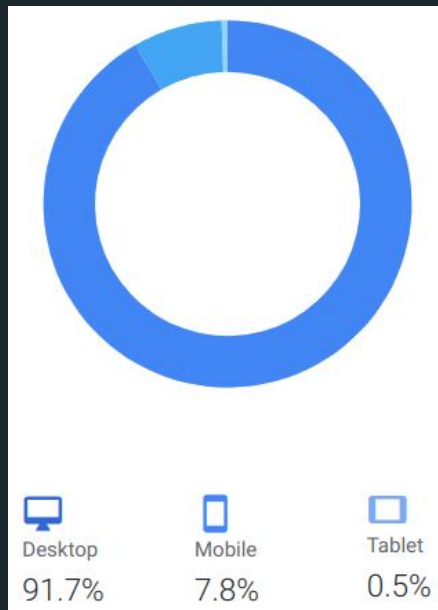
# VonSim 1 Usage statistics

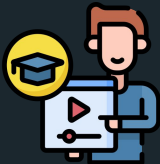
- Via Google Analytics (2020/10 - 2021/04)

Visits per day



Devices





# Tutoriales

- Integrados en la aplicación
- Ejercicios incluidos

 Ejecución Rápida Depurar Finalizar

Instrucciones y registros  
de VonSim

Anterior 3/22 Siguiente

## Registros

En VonSim tenemos dos lugares para almacenar información: la memoria y los registros. La memoria permite guardar mucha más información, pero el acceso a la misma desde la CPU es más lento; en cambio, los registros son pocos pero su acceso es prácticamente instantáneo para la CPU.

La CPU de VonSim tiene 4 registros de propósito general, es decir, que sirven para cualquier cosa.

Los registros se llaman **ax**, **bx**, **cx** y **dx**. Cada uno guarda un valor de 16 bits (2 bytes).

Cuando se comienza a ejecutar un programa, el simulador le pone el valor **0** a ambos bytes de estos registros.

Puedes observar su valor en la pantalla del simulador.

```
1
2 org 2000h
3 ; código aquí
4 hlt
5 end
```

 Ejecución Rápida Depurar Finalizar

Instrucciones y registros  
de VonSim

Anterior 5/22 Siguiente

## Registros y **mov** (parte 2)

Escribe un programa que le asigne el valor **16** al registro **ax**, el valor **16h** al registro **bx**, el **3A2h** al **cx** y el **120** al registro **dx**.

Recuerda que puedes ingresar valores en decimal, hexadecimal o binario, pero el simulador siempre los muestra codificados en hexadecimal.

Respuesta

```
1 org 2000h
2
3 hlt
4 end
```