2024 Spring CSED353 Computer Network Assignment 7 Essay

Essay about Great minds in computer networks  
: Douglas Engelbart

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Douglas Engelbart graduated from Franklin High School in Portland in 1942 and went on to attend Oregon State University. He completed his degree in electrical engineering in 1948, then earned master’s degree (1953) and PhD (1955) in electrical engineering at UC Berkeley. He worked at Stanford Research Institute from 1957, recruited Augmentation Research Center in 1962

He is best known for establishing the field of Human-Computer Interaction. He developed the very first computer mouse, which operates with two metal wheels underneath. It was called “X-Y position indicator for a display system”, later it was nicknamed the “mouse” according to its tail at the end.

Another revolutionary development is NLS (oN-Line System), implemented at ARC. This system is the First system which featured fundamental computer elements with Graphic User Interface: Computer mouse, 2D display editing, multiple windows, word processing, DLL, version control. It also had hypertext-based groupware “the journal”, which is primitive concept of Wiki that many people can change, debate about certain documents.   
NLS was demonstrated in The Mother of All Demos, live demonstration which he performed at ARC in 1968 is famous. What's remarkable is that he demonstrated all these features within a single system.

According to his contribution to computer science, He awarded Lemelson-MIT Prize which is largest prize given to invention in 1997. He also awarded Turing Award in 1997, which is called the “Novel Prize of Computing”.

About 20%: Your own opinions about technological and/or social impacts that the person’s contribution produced.

I’m very surprised that fundamental elements of GUI we use every day, basic multi-user computer system, wiki system was designed by one person even before the widespread of computers among individuals. I also find his attitude toward humanity worthy of respect. His lifelong goal was to make the world better place, so that he innovated, advanced computer systems to reach his Lifelong goal.

References

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