**Al-Khwarizmi**

This Persian scholar famous for putting together a complete understanding of **algebra**as the field of mathematics we all know and love, and other notable works in astronomy, geography and now we can hear his influence in the form a term used by many without really knowing about its origin: **Algorithm!**

**Blaise Pascal**

A French inventor well known for his contributions to physics and mathematics was also the first to build a **mechanical calculator** called the *Pascaline*, a kind of precursor to the computer. A unit of pressure (*Pa*) and a programming language were named in his honor.

**Charles Babbage**

*The father of the computer* is a common name for this English polymath credited with the design of a mechanical computer, the **analytical engine**, with things like *control flow* and *memory*, essential features the modern computer.

George Boole

Programmers and electronic engineers have a lot to thank to this self-taught mathematician for developing Boolean algebra. Those bit operations, Boolean variables and logic gates will not be the same without his rules.

**John von Neumann**

Regarded as a genius for his ability to apply math and physics to solve very hard problems (including the *Manhattan Project*), this Hungarian scientist is a big name in computer science for defining the **computer architecture**we use to arrange our hardware components.

**Alan Turing**

Famous for breaking the **Enigma machine** code with an electromechanical computer, helping the allies in WWII and coming up with things like the **Turing machine** or the **Turing test,** popularised by the movie *Blade Runner*. He had a tragic ending, killing himself with a poisoned apple after being castrated as punishment for his homosexuality.

**Claude Shannon**

Another cryptanalysis hero in World War II that was only 21 years old when he wrote a thesis applying *Boolean algebra* to electronics. But his crown achievement was without a doubt his work on **information theory** with fundamental applications for sending data in telecommunications or calculating password strength with his *entropy function*.

**Ada Lovelace**

Daughter of the poet Lord Byron, this English mathematician is considered to be the **first computer programmer**. Let me be clear: not the first woman programmer, the first *person*programmer. Ada published an algorithm that could be executed in *Babbage’s analytical engine* (if it had been build).

**Grace Hopper**

The programming world is filled with women like this admiral of the US Navy that was a key contributor in the development of early **high-level programming languages** like *COBOL*, widely use today in the banking sector. Fun fact, she was the recipient of the first *Man of the Year*award by the Data Processing Management Association.

**Margaret Hamilton**

That pile of papers in the photo is a printed version of the code written by this computer scientist for the on-board **software for Apollo**ships that put the first humans on the moon. She was a pioneer of making a career out of *software engineering* when that was not even a job.

**Barbara Liskov**

Experienced software developers may recognise his surname as it gives name to a quite useful design pattern known as the **Liskov sustitution principle**and other notable works in *distributed computing*.

**Richard Hamming**

Telecommunications have a lot to thank to this *Bell Labs* employee, also another member of the Manhattan Project, his invention of the **Hamming code** gives us the ability to keep data integrity when send over long distances.

**Rivest Shamir Adleman**

The creators of the first public key cryptosystem: *RSA*, that uses a property of prime numbers and an ingenuous protocol to cipher messages, the first use of **public-key cryptography**. Without this, money transactions over the Internet will be way less secure.

**Diffie-Hellman**

The **Diffie-Hellman key exchange** was the solution to sharing a secret in an insecure channel of communications, a problem that really needed solving if we want to start a *private communication* over the Internet.

**Ritchie and Thompson**

This *Bell Labs* employees alongside *Brian Kernighan*develop the **C programming language**and lay the foundation for the f*ree software movement*with the creation of the **Unix**operating system. Other projects include languages like *Go* or *B*(*a* precursor to *C*)and the *Plan 9* operating system.

**Linus & Stallman**

*Richard Stallman* is an activist, pioneer contributor of free software with the **GNU Project**and supporting the growth of concepts like *copyleft*, *GPL*and *open source*. *Linus Tolvalds* is a Finnish developer, creator of the **Linux**operating system and the popular version control system **git**.

**Jobs vs Gates**

Big money and big names that everyone knows due to their fight for market control. *Steve Jobs* co-founding **Apple** with *Steve Wozniak*, **Pixar** on his own and making himself a media figure and *Bill Gates* was able to be the wealthiest man alive for several years thanks to the success of **Microsoft**.

**Bezos and Zuckerberg**

Another two giant fortunes made with their respective companies. Apart from the big success of **Amazon**, Jeff Bezos is investing in cloud computing and Artificial Intelligence with his *Amazon Web Services*(**AWS**) and **Facebook** released several frameworks like *React*or *GraphQL* pushing the software industry forward.

**Page and Brin**

Founders of the big one: **Google**. *Larry Page*and *Sergey Brin*are the fathers of a company synonymous with innovation. After solving the biggest problem in the era of information (searching for it) *Google*has not stop creating new quality products for every tech related necessity: *communications*, *navigation*, *storage*, *translation*, *office tools*, *education*, *ads*, *shopping*…

**Donald Knuth**

Knuth is the author of the multi-volume work **The Art of Computer Programming**.

**Bjarne Stroustrup**

Bjarne Stroustrup is a Danish computer scientist, most notable for the invention and development of the **C++ programming language**.

**Guido van Rossum**

Guido van Rossum is a Dutch programmer best known as the creator of the **Python programming language**.

**Brian Kernighan**

Kernighan's name became widely known through co-authorship of the first book on the **C programming language** (The C Programming Language) with Dennis Ritchie. Kernighan affirmed that he had no part in the design of the C language ("it's entirely Dennis Ritchie's work").