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What Is A Computer?

As a child being born in the year 1994 and being considered generation Y (Millennials), I grew up seeing and using digital technologies such as Computers. From my earliest years to my current years growing up I've first hand seen how technology has developed and become more advanced. In today's society computers have become a huge party of people's lives to the point where people can't function without them. They have become the center point of basic daily function, and carry out many uses such as providing communication, media, computing, browsing, and the list goes on.

My first memory of a computer dates back to when I was a child around the age of 5 years old where I use to go to my father's manufacturing shop. At that young of an age I didn't really think too much when I thought of a computer, but at that age what I did know was that this big bulky white box with a screen had a paint application on it, and I would spend hours just sitting at the computer drawing away. Back then computers were made up of a big boxy computer and a monitor that was probably the same size as a microwave oven. They had basic features and utilities such text editor and web browsing, which consisted of newly developed web service providers such as Yahoo!, and Google.

In today's time my most recent uses of a computer consists of many things such as, performing research, entertainment, communication, daily planning, shopping, and many other things. Right now I am currently a Student where I am required to perform a lot of research, document, blog, and do online

discussions with other classmates in order to obtain enough knowledge to get a degree. Also websites such as Netflix, Hulu, and HBO provide instant movie entertainment, which I use quite frequently.

Things that make computers important to me is the ability to perform endless research on just about any topic, being able to find information on to do, fix, or build a variety of things, and the ability to communicate and follow my friends social lives via social media. Another reason why computers are so important to me is because of the fact that in today's society you can have access to a computer just about anywhere in the palm of your hand. Smart phones in my generation are carried by everyone. It's a way for people to have communication, internet access, and a bunch of other personal utilities that can be used from anywhere as long there is service.

This then leads me to my next topic which is how I would characterize the differences between a computer and other similar technologies. The first comparison is a smart phone and a tablet/ iPad. To me these objects are no different than computers in that they all share the same abilities except maybe that a computer lacks the ability to make phone calls using cellular service. The next comparison is a programmable Washer or Dryer. This technology is different than a computer in that it is limited to what it can perform. The washer and dryer can most likely only be programmed to perform only specific functions that pertain to washing and or drying clothes. Finally the last comparison is a Robot. This is tricky because it comes down to what the robot's main function is, But I would say it is different from a computer in that it either performs its own programmed functions, or it performs its own functions via artificial intelligence.

Over many years computers have become more and more advanced, but some features found in early computers can still be found in new modern day computers. For example utilities such as a text editor was one of the main utilities on early computers that are still very much used in modern computers today. The basic structure of an early computer is still used today in modern computers such

as most computers are made up of the actual computer itself, a monitor, keyboard and mouse. Also the basic makeup of a computer is the same in that it consists of a CPU, Ram, Dick /Flash storage.

When it comes to the future of computers and the direction they will go, I believe it can only get better with the rise and development of new technologies. In two years' time I believe computers won't change much from what they are today instead of the fact that they might become faster processing wise, lighter, and more visually appealing. In five years' time I see computers becoming more popular in different forms then just basic desk top, laptop, and smartphone forms of computers. I see computer being used in eyewear, and other commonly used accessories just due to the trending idea of being able to make object that are not normally made to be seen as a computer and making that a reality. For example apple watches, and Fitbit. In 10 years' time I see computers to be used along similar lines with virtual reality. With the rise and new technology being developed using virtual reality, I see the possible ability in 10 years' time that computers will somehow be tied in with virtual reality.

The final topic I will discuss is why I chose to study computer science. I chose to study computer science because of my love for technology and how things work. At a young age there were only two things that I loved doing with my time and they were playing baseball and taking electronics apart just because I was always curious about how things worked. At the age of 15 and with rise of online resources such as You Tube I started watching basic programing videos and instantly fell in love with the ability to make things. My first ever program I made was a Calculator that performed all basic math functions. While attending University of Hawaii at Manoa, I plan on getting my bachelor's degree in computer science with a focus of security science.

In Conclusion, over years of my life have grown up around computers and have firsthand have experienced how advanced them become. Computers today are used for just about anything and provide a valuable service to people in order to make communication, information, and media more

accessible. As time progresses I see computers becoming the ultimate utility that will one day be able to solve all world problems that are addressed them. Also even at this very moment computers become more and more useful due to the constant amount of information being published on the internet.