

Though the graphical capabilities of the PDP-1 had serious applications, it was the game Spacewar! that has made the PDP-1 famous. Spacewar! was initially conceived by Steve Russell, Martin Graetz and Wayne Wiitanen in 1961, and largely inspired by the pulp science fiction novels of E. E. "Doc" Smith's Lensman series. The first version was written by Steve Russell with significant improvements made in the spring of 1962 by Peter Samson, Dan Edwards and Martin Graetz. Much of this work was performed under the impressive-sounding "Hingham Institute Space Warfare Study Group," which was in fact Russell's residence.