• In February 2011, the world was introduced to Watson (after Thomas J. Watson, the founder of IBM), IBM’s cognitive computing system that defeated Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter at the American TV quiz show Jeopardy!, and received the 1st place prize of $1 million.

• Watson was developed in IBM's DeepQA project by a research team led by principal investigator David Ferrucci.

• Watson is a Question-Answering (QA) system that applies advanced natural language processing, information retrieval, knowledge representation, automated reasoning, and machine learning technologies to the field of open domain question answering.

• Watson had access to 200 million pages of structured and unstructured content consuming 4 terabytes of disk storage including dictionaries, references, and the full text of Wikipedia.

• Software is written in various languages, including Java, C++, and Prolog, and runs on the SUSE™ Linux Enterprise Server 11.

• Can operate at over 80 Teraflops (trillions of operations per second) and process 500 gigabytes, the equivalent of a million books, per second.

• Overall goal: “to create a new generation of technology that can find answers from data more effectively than current search engines”