



ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSE: COMPUTERS

Text: Computers of the future

The technological revolution is producing an explosive change in computer's hardware and software.

PCs are now coming in different shapes, sizes and prices: the desktop or classical computer (with separate monitor, keyboard, CPU and mouse) and portable designs such as the ultrafast notebooks, the ultrathin laptops and the ultrasmall palmtops.

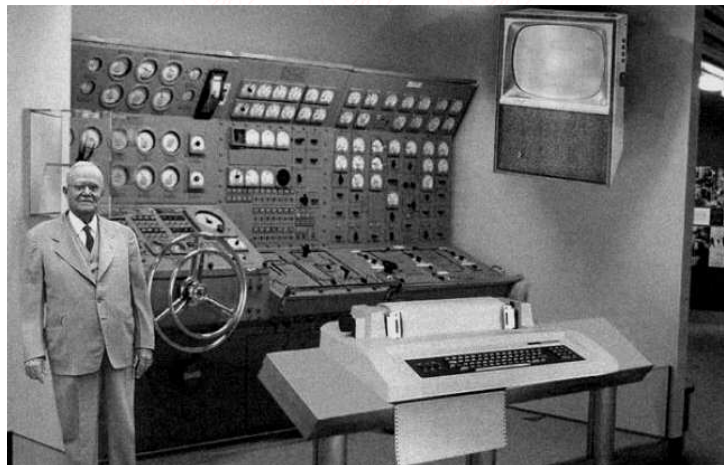
Also, the variety of software is infinite: there are programmes for education, entertainment, business, professions, and every field you can imagine.

What about the future? The computers of the future will interact with us because they will recognize our voices, handwriting and faces. They will also understand our gestures. Also, they will predict situations and look for solutions.

How? They will learn by trial and error and adjust their own programming. They will also learn by simulation: they will simulate weather conditions, environmental dangers, traffic jams, health risks and many other circumstances.

In less than ten years, PCs will include interactive television, telephone and video transmission. Scientists see a world with no limits to storage space, processing power and transmission capacity.

For other side ...



In 1954, scientists from the RAND Corporation have created this model to illustrate how a "home computer" could look like in the year 2004. However the needed technology will not be economically feasible for the average home. Also the scientists readily admit that the computer will require not yet invented technology to actually work, but 50 years from now scientific progress is expected to solve these problems. With teletype interface and the Fortran language, the computer will be easy to use and ...