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Computer Microprocessor History

Very few, if any, single invention has had such a profound impact on our personal and business lives as the Central Processing Unit...otherwise know as a computers CPU. Commonly referred to as the "brains" of today's computers, this little piece of silicon has changed the way we work, how we communicate and offers unlimited ways to entertain us...and so far they are only scratching the surface.

This article expands on our last newsletter, *"Electronic Claims – Identifying Fact From Fiction"*. Equipped with this information, not only will you be able to follow the progression of these technologies but you'll also be able to determine the validity of information supplied to you by your insured's. We've compiled a list of dates that can be used to reference processor release dates for specific models in both the traditional IBM and Apple line-up.

While there are many companies manufacturing computers today, there are only three core companies producing the CPU's found within these models; Intel, AMD & Apple. Although Intel & AMD do not manufacturer computers, you will find their processors within most of the computers being purchased today. You can now find an Intel processor inside an Apple computer.

Each of these 3 companies is producing a number of different processors. They offer value & performance processors. The processors within those groups are also updated regularly to make them faster. The date of release is the year that the processor was first introduced. Many processors are re-introduced at higher clock speeds (faster performance) for many years after the original release date. Listed below you'll find the release dates for the advances in the different processors from Intel and AMD and in Apple's case the different models they manufacture. If you would like a more detailed breakdown of the individual processors from Intel please reply to this newsletter and we'll gladly send you the complete list.

Intel: Over the years Intel has produced a number of different processor starting with the 80 series which was launched in the seventies to the Pentium which made its debut in the mid nineties, to the Celeron in the late nineties To the latest & greatest Centrino Duo which arrived in January 2006.

Intel Processor History

Name	Date	Clock Speed
8080	1974	2mhz
8085	1976	5mhz
8086	1978	5/8/10mhz
8088	1979	5mhz
80286	1982	6/10/12mhz
80386	1985	16mhz
80486	1989	25/33/50mhz
Pentium	1994	75/100mhz
PentiumPro	1995	150/166/180/200 mhz
Pentium II	1998	333mhz
Celeron	1999	266mhz
Pentium III	1999	450/500mhz
Pentium 4	2000 (Nov)	1.4/1.5 ghz
Xeon	2001 (Sept)	1.4/1.5/1.7ghz
Titanium	2001 (May)	800/733mhz
Titanium 2	2002 (July)	900mhz/1ghz
Pentium M	2003 (June)	1.1-1.6ghz
Xeon MP	2004 (June)	2.8ghz
Celeron M	2004 (April)	1.4ghz
Celeron D	2004 (June)	2.4-2.8ghz
Core Duo	2006 (Jan.)	1.5-2.16ghz

AMD Processor History

Name	Date
K6	May 1997
Mobile K6	June 2000
Athlon (K7)	August 1999
Athlon MP	June 2001
Athlon XP	October 2001
Duron	June 2000
Alchemy	April 2002
Opteron	April 2003
Athlon 64	September 2003
Sempron	July 2004
Sempron 64	June 2005
Turion 64	April 2005
Turion 64X2	June 2006
Athlon 64x2	June 2005

MacIntosh Processor History

iBook – Laptop Computer

iBook Introduced: September 1999 – Ceased production October 2003

iBook G4 Introduced: October 2003 – Current as of April 2006

iMac – Desktop Computer

eMac Introduced: April 2002 - Ceased production May 2005

Imac Introduced: August 1998 - Ceased production July 2004

iMac G5 Introduced: August 2004 - Ceased production January 2006

iMac (Core Duo) Introduced: January 2006 - Current as of April 2006

MacBook – Laptop Computer

MacBook Pro Introduced: January 2006 - Current as of April 2006

Mini – Desktop Computer

Mac Mini Introduced: January 2005 - Current as of April 2006

PowerBook G3/G4 – Laptop Computer

PowerBook G3 Introduced: November 1997 - Ceased production January 2001

PowerBook G4 Introduced: January 2001 – Current as of April 2006

PowerMac G3/G4/G5 – Desktop Computer

Power Macintosh G3 Introduced: November 1997 - Ceased production September 1999

Power Macintosh G4 Introduced: September 1999 - Ceased production Late 2004

Power Macintosh G5 Introduced: June 2003 – Current as of April 2006

Disclaimer: While every effort is made to publish correct specifications for all machines listed on this site, errors inevitably exist. If you are here for mission-critical information, it's always best to get a second opinion. No guarantee of accuracy is in any way implied.

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