

An Wang's Life –

Born: Feb 7, 1920, in Shanghai, China

Entered Harvard graduate school in September 1945 studying applied physics

Choice his PhD thesis on ease of topic – The determination of the effects on a mass with a nonlinear response of two forces simultaneously oscillating at different frequencies

Started working at the Computation Laboratory under Aiken because it was close and he didn't want to fill out the pile of security forms that Hughes Aircraft sent him.

On May 18, 1948 – assigned the task of recording and reading magnetically stored information without mechanical motion

October 21, 1949 applied for the Pulse Transfer Controlling Devices patent that was granted on May 17, 1955

Cores were arranged in a line like the magnetic delay storage lines

4 years before Jay Forrester organized the cores in a matrix – Wang called the idea brilliant and always regretted not thinking of it himself

Wang Laboratories –

June 1951 set up Wang Laboratories to make and sell memory cores as a sole proprietorship with \$600, no orders, no contracts, and no office furniture

Sold patent to IBM for \$500K and 70% of all licensing royalties

1964 – produced the LOCI desktop calculator in which used logic circuits to find logarithms – could be programmed from its console, with punched cards, or a teletypewriter

LOCI-2 programmable calculators along with general-purpose logic devices, LOGI-BLOCs served as the basic framework for the Wang Model 2315 general-purpose data acquisition and on-line computing system in the mid-1960s

Model 2315 was used in Armco Steel in 1966 to monitor and record temperature of steel ingots as they were traveling through reduction gates

Wang 4000 Computing System – Dr. Wang wanted to market a minicomputer against the DEC PDP-8 – initially the New York Stock Exchange and Western Electric were among the first to purchase the machine but the calculator division of Wang destroyed any further marketing hopes the computer had when upgrades to the 300-series made the calculators truly programmable.

In March of 1971 Wang shipped the first 3300 timeshared minicomputer with the 3300 CPU unit, 12K bytes of core memory, I/O Controller terminal, two IBM Selectric I/O typewriters, a dual drive magnetic cassette tape system, and the BASIC software language – the idea was to put the power of the 3300 timesharing computer right in front of the user, eliminating the need for timesharing

Wang 1200 introduced in November 1971 and entered Wang into the word processing market in which it would dominate for the next few years

By early 1973 Wang was ready to ship the Model 2200 with a 60-pound CPU unit that was connected to a raster-scan CRT monitor and a digital cassette tape drive – then connected to a separate non-QWERTY keyboard unit

The CRT displayed 16 lines of 64 characters providing the user with much more data than the HP 9830 (the first personal computer) with only 32 characters on a single line

Also had a more powerful BASIC language embedded in ROM – Along with Wang's new WPS – Word Processing System, Wang became the largest worldwide supplier of CRT based word processing systems. 80% of the top 2000 US firms owned a Wang, and it was said that every secretary in America swore by Wang products