

# CS 407H: Assignment 1: Personal History of Computing

Due: Monday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m. (electronically)

## Part 1: Blog Commentary [1 point]

1. Submit a comment on any post from our class blog, located at <http://www.wkiri.com/comphist/>

This will help you learn to use the WordPress system.

## Part 2: Your Story [9 points]

2. [1 point] Find a picture that represents your first computer or computing experiences. For example, you might use Google image search or Wikipedia to find a picture of your first computer's model, software you used, a game you played, the kind of disk you used, a club you joined, a program you wrote, a person who inspired you, etc. Old product advertisements can be a fun source of such images.

**Bring this picture to class on Wed., Sept. 28, as a printout or emailed to [wkiri@eecs.orst.edu](mailto:wkiri@eecs.orst.edu).**

3. [8 points] Write 3-5 paragraphs about your own history of computing. Discuss these two topics (and feel free to add more if you like):

A) [4 points] What was your first computer? When did you get it? What did you do with it? Refer to the picture you selected as appropriate.

B) [4 points] Think of an experience in your life in which computers, or computing technology, played an important role. (This need not be your first computer.) For example, did a computer enable you to have a critical conversation? Influence your choice of major? Teach you something that was critical in a later situation? How would things be different if that experience had not happened? Describe what computing technology was involved, and what influence it had on you.

### How to submit your assignment:

- This assignment is due on Monday, October 3, at the start of class.
- Submit your blog comment on the class blog.
- Submit your picture and your story by email (to [wkiri@eecs.orst.edu](mailto:wkiri@eecs.orst.edu)).
  - You can send the picture as an attachment, or specify the URL where the image is located.
  - Send your story as regular text in the body of your email, or as a PDF file attachment. Do not send Word .doc files or other formats as I may not be able to open them.
  - I encourage you to also post your story (with picture) to the class blog. Feel free to read and comment on other students' stories (this can satisfy Part 1 as well).