

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.

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).
 - 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).