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Study Notes for Computer Knowledge topic - Evolution of Computers

The advancements of modern computers are often referred to as the generation of computers in computer history. We are currently using computers from the fifth generation. So, let's take a look at the evolution of computers.

19th Century:

In **1801** a weaver and businessman from France named Joseph Marie Jacquard invented a loom that used punched wooden cards to automatically weave cloth designs.

In **1822**, mathematician Charles Babbage invented the steampowered calculating machine capable of calculating number tables. The "Difference Engine" concept failed due to a lack of available technology at the time.

1890 - Inventor Herman Hollerith develops the punch card technique used to calculate the 1880 U.S. census. He went on to find the company that would become IBM.

20th Century:

Vannevar Bush invented and built the first large-scale automatic general-purpose mechanical analogue computer, Differential Analyzer, in **1930**.

1936 - Alan Turing devised the Turing machine, a universal machine that could compute anything that could be computed.

Konrad Zuse, a German inventor and engineer, finished his Z3 machine, the world's first digital computer, in **1941**. The machine, however, was destroyed during a World War II bombing raid on Berlin.

The UNIVAC I (Universal Automatic Computer) was the first general-purpose electronic digital computer designed in the United States for business applications in **1946**.

1950 - In Washington, DC, the Standards Eastern Automatic Computer (SEAC) was completed, making it the first stored program computer in the United States.

Personal computers were introduced to the market in **1974**. The Altair Scelbi & Mark-8, IBM 5100, and Radio Shack's TRS80 were the first.
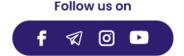
The CD-ROM, which could hold 550 megabytes of pre recorded data, was released in **1983**. The Gavilan SC, the first portable computer with a flip-form design and the first to be offered as a "laptop," was also released this year. The Pentium CPU improved graphics and music playback on personal computers in 1993.

Wi-Fi, an abbreviation for "wireless fidelity," was first introduced in **1999**, with a range of up to 300 feet.

21st Century:

In the year **2000**, the USB flash drive was first introduced. When used for data storage, they were faster and had more storage space than other storage media options.

2001 - Apple introduces Mac OS X, later renamed OS X and then simply macOS, as the successor to its traditional Mac Operating System.

Customers were able to purchase AMD's Athlon 64, the first 64-bit CPU for consumer computers, in **2003**.

Facebook began in **2004** as a social networking website.

2005 - Google acquires Android, a Linux-based mobile phone operating system.

In **2006**, Apple released the MacBook Pro. The Pro was the first dual-core, Intel-based mobile computer from the company. Amazon Web Services were also launched, including Amazon Elastic Cloud 2 (EC2) and Amazon Simple Storage Service (S3) Apple released the first iPhone in **2007**, bringing many computer functions into the palm of our hands. In 2007, Amazon also released the Kindle, one of the first electronic reading systems.

Microsoft released Windows 7 in **2009**.

Google introduced the Chromebook, which runs Google Chrome OS, in **2011**.

The world's smallest computer, the University of Michigan Micro Mote (M3), was built in **2014**.

The Apple Watch was introduced in **2015**. Microsoft also released Windows 10.

The world's first reprogrammable quantum computer was built in **2016**.

This was about the evolution of computers. In next blog, we will look at the key features of these five computer generations.