

# The Editors of ABACUS Present Their Forecast



ABACUS Time Line is denounced as frivolous.

Star Wars programming started.  
South Africa bans black-on-white computer displays.

1986

Manufacturer announces the Unary computer, with half the symbols and twice the speed of binary.  
End of Cobol predicted.

U.S. Commerce Department grants export license for ENIAC

1987

DoD orders ultra-high-speed printer using invisible ink.

End of Fortran predicted.

Star Wars software certified correct.

1988

Stanford professor discovers purpose of local area networking.  
DoD classifies Stanford LAN report as Top Secret.

University computer, denied tenure, destroys student records.

Amiga develops Friendly Love computer.

End of Cobol predicted.

Last human grand master is disqualified for slow playing in international chess competition.

1989

First computer is admitted to graduate school. Seeks degree in English literature.

End of Fortran predicted.

Antique punched-card deck brings \$ 100,000 at auction.

Star Wars software tested.

1990

IBM acquires 14 failing firms, including Exxon and General Motors.

IMB buys Florida.

Star Wars software reprogramming started.

End of Cobol predicted.

Departments of Commerce and Education are merged into the Department of Information Processing.

1991

U.S. Justice Department sues IBM for restraint of trade.

End of Fortran predicted.

IBM acquires Justice Department.

Supreme Court upholds Tennessee law prohibiting teaching computer evolution.

Grain-of-sand-size \$ 14 billion Cray 64 is accidentally lost in rug during Congressional hearing.

Star Wars corrected software certified correct.

1992

Last university mathematics department is renamed "Department of Computer Science."

CIA is indicted for unauthorized entry into 14-year-old's secret computer files.

End of Cobol predicted.

Crisis ends as last employment advertisement for computer science faculty member is withdrawn.

1993

Last high-school grammar-and-spelling class is replaced by word-processing course.

End of Fortran predicted.

Church group condemns computer idolatry.

Star Wars corrected software tested.

1994

Turing test demonstrates that the president of a major firm is an artificially intelligent robot.

Star Wars corrected software reprogramming started.

End of Cobol predicted.

Last native-born U.S. citizen in computer science graduate school gets degree.

1995

DoD announces unbreakable secret encryption scheme.

End of Fortran predicted.

Charles Babbage, nine-year-old MIT undergraduate, breaks new DoD code.

Japan announces 13th-Generation Computer Project.

1996

DoD prohibits publication of Babbage solution.

DoD announces 13th-Generation Computer Project.

People's Republic of China joins Japan in banning export of computer technology to the U.S.

End of Cobol predicted.

Ada documentation exceeds capacity of all toxic waste dumps.

1997

ABACUS Time Line proved correct in every detail.

# ACUS

to understanding  
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