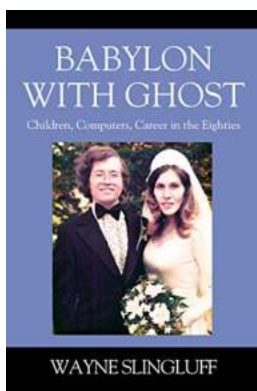# 10 Amazing Facts About Children Computers Career In The Eighties

Do you remember the good old days when computers were a rare sight and people marveled at their capabilities? Imagine being a child in the eighties, growing up in a time when computers were just starting to become accessible. It was an exciting era for the development of technology, and many kids found themselves drawn to the world of computers. In this article, we will take a trip down memory lane and explore the amazing journey of children's computers careers in the eighties.

1. The Rise of Home Computers:

In the eighties, home computers became more affordable and accessible for families. This gave children the opportunity to learn and experiment with computers from the comfort of their own homes. Names like Commodore 64, Apple II, and Sinclair ZX Spectrum became familiar companions for many young enthusiasts.

The availability of home computers opened doors to programming and coding for children. They could now have hands-on experiences and start learning the basics of computer science at an early age.

Babylon With Ghost: Children, Computers, Career in the Eighties by James McGrath Morris (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 2313 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled

Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 749 pages
Lending	: Enabled

2. Educational Computer Games:

The eighties witnessed a surge in educational computer games designed specifically for children. Titles like "Oregon Trail," "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?," and "Math Blaster" became popular choices for young learners. These games combined fun and education, allowing children to develop problem-solving skills while enjoying their time on the computer.

The educational computer game industry grew exponentially during this period, providing various opportunities for children's computer careers. Many individuals fondly remember playing these games and credit them for sparking their interest in technology.

3. Learning Basic Programming Skills:

Since home computers were becoming more prevalent, children had the chance to pick up basic programming skills. With the availability of programming languages like BASIC, kids could experiment, code simple games, and create their applications.

Learning programming skills at such a young age was a significant advantage for those children pursuing computer careers later in life. It allowed them to develop logical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and a solid foundation in technology.

4. The Dawn of the Computer Club:

As computer knowledge grew, so did the formation of computer clubs in schools and communities. These clubs provided a platform for children to come together, share ideas, and learn from each other. It offered a supportive community for those eager to dive deeper into the world of computers.

Joining a computer club often meant gaining access to more advanced technology, attending workshops, and participating in coding competitions. Many successful computer professionals trace their early beginnings back to the friendships and experiences gained through these clubs.

5. Drawing With the Mouse:

One of the fascinating features introduced in the eighties was the ability to draw using a computer mouse. This was a revolutionary concept for children, allowing them to explore their creativity digitally. Drawing programs and software like Paintbrush (which later became Microsoft Paint) enabled kids to express their imagination on screens.

For some, this marked the first time they experienced the joy of digital art. It sparked a passion for graphic design and visual communication, setting the foundation for future creative careers.

6. The Boom of Computer Magazines:

With the rapid advancement of computers, numerous magazines dedicated to technology found their place in the market. These magazines played a vital role in spreading knowledge, sharing tips, and inspiring young readers.

Many children who were fascinated by the world of computers eagerly awaited the new issues of these magazines. They eagerly devoured articles about the latest computer models, video games, and programming tutorials. These

magazines served as a valuable resource for kids interested in pursuing careers in computing.

7. Computer Career Role Models:

In the eighties, several public figures emerged as computer career role models. Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, and countless others captured the imagination of children worldwide. Their success stories and innovative ideas inspired a generation to dream big and pursue their passion for technology.

Seeing individuals like Gates and Jobs rise to prominence showcased the potential of computer careers and encouraged children to believe in themselves. The influence of these role models cannot be overstated in shaping the aspirations of many young minds in the eighties.

8. Coding Contests and Competitions:

Coding contests and competitions gained significant popularity in the eighties. These events offered children the opportunity to showcase their programming skills and learn from the best in the field. Competing in coding challenges allowed kids to sharpen their abilities, analyze different coding techniques, and experience the thrill of problem-solving.

Participation in coding contests fostered a competitive spirit among children and motivated them to continuously improve their coding skills. Many of these competitions acted as stepping stones for children to establish successful careers in the computer industry.

9. Growth of Computer Science Degrees:

As the demand for computer-related careers increased, universities and colleges began offering computer science programs. This shift allowed children interested

in computers to pursue higher education specifically tailored to their passion.

Obtaining a computer science degree in the eighties was a significant advantage. It provided students with a deep understanding of computer systems, programming languages, and software development methodologies. These degrees equipped children for the workforce, where they could unleash their creativity and contribute to the rapidly evolving technology industry.
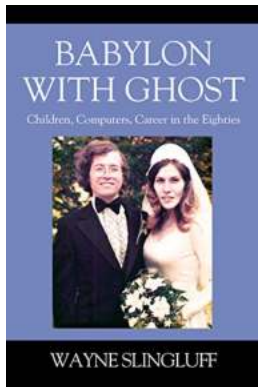
10. The Foundation of Lifelong Learning:

Perhaps the most important aspect of children's computers careers in the eighties was the foundation it laid for lifelong learning. The early exposure and experiences with computers instilled a curiosity and passion for technology that continued to grow as these children matured.

The skills, knowledge, and experiences gained during the eighties provided a strong base for future success and opened doors to endless opportunities. Many individuals who started their computer careers as children in the eighties continue to make significant contributions to the field even today.

The eighties were an exciting time for children interested in computers. With the rise of home computers, educational games, coding opportunities, and supportive communities, these kids had an incredible journey that eventually led them to successful computer careers.

Looking back at the vibrant landscape of children's computers careers in the eighties, it is evident that this era played a crucial role in shaping the technology industry today. Many of these children grew up to become pioneers, innovators, and leaders in the ever-evolving world of computers.

As we reflect on these amazing facts, let us celebrate the efforts and passion of those trailblazers from the eighties. Their dedication and love for computers have paved the way for the countless opportunities and advancements we enjoy in the present day.

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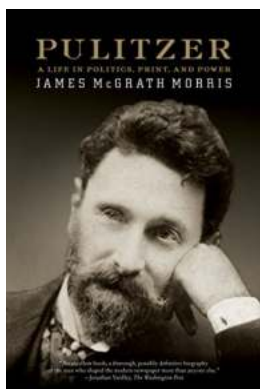
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Boston, 1978. Wayne and Joan are poor but happy in a fifth floor walk-up on the backside of Beacon Hill. Daycare teaching doesn't pay well, but all the immense riches of urban life are available as long as they pay rent. Wayne paints pictures, but fails to sell anything. Joan tries to find a public school position with no success. Suddenly, they turn thirty and everything looks different. They decide it is time to start a family. They will need better careers with more income, so Wayne explores the exploding field of computers. Family support will be welcome so they agree to move back to Joan's native Long Island. Will the transition from carefree city joys to solid middle-class suburban succeed? A decade of disruptions and learning begins. Starting from nearly nothing to acquiring a house, two cars, a couple of boys, new jobs, and all the accompaniments of modern life presents breathless challenges. No longer poor, hardly rich, they

encounter all the joys, problems and frustrations of raising children. Money often seems less important than time itself, as constant demands pile up. Computers are just beginning to become standard in small and mid-sized businesses. Wayne quickly discovers that there are many kinds of hardware and software, all incompatible, and all changing constantly. Nobody is quite sure what is best, what is right, what works, or (most important) whose fault the latest problem is. Joan resumes teaching as she futilely tries to guide her husband in proper middle-class etiquette. Starting on the bandwagon late, they always seem to have a little less than the relatives and folks next door. But they realize that these are some of the happiest times of their lives. Memoirs are often composed as aids to fading memory. Mine makes no pretensions beyond being a personal and family remembrance of turbulent times not long ago. My imaginary friend Ghost inserts lighter commentary. Much has changed over these last decades. But these stories provide a reminder that the past was always just as complicated to live through as the present.

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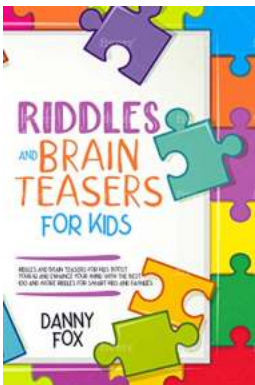
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