



When Computers Were Human

David Alan Grier



When Computers Were Human:

When Computers Were Human David Alan Grier, 2007-09-16 Before Palm Pilots and iPods PCs and laptops the term computer referred to the people who did scientific calculations by hand These workers were neither calculating geniuses nor idiot savants but knowledgeable people who in other circumstances might have become scientists in their own right When Computers Were Human represents the first in depth account of this little known 200 year epoch in the history of science and technology Beginning with the story of his own grandmother who was trained as a human computer David Alan Grier provides a poignant introduction to the wider world of women and men who did the hard computational labor of science His grandmother's casual remark I wish I'd used my calculus hinted at a career deferred and an education forgotten a secret life unappreciated like many highly educated women of her generation she studied to become a human computer because nothing else would offer her a place in the scientific world The book begins with the return of Halley's comet in 1758 and the effort of three French astronomers to compute its orbit It ends four cycles later with a UNIVAC electronic computer projecting the 1986 orbit In between Grier tells us about the surveyors of the French Revolution describes the calculating machines of Charles Babbage and guides the reader through the Great Depression to marvel at the giant computing room of the Works Progress Administration When Computers Were Human is the sad but lyrical story of workers who gladly did the hard labor of research calculation in the hope that they might be part of the scientific community In the end they were rewarded by a new electronic machine that took the place and the name of those who were once the computers

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us to confront profound questions about ourselves The era of human intellectual superiority is ending and we need to plan for this monumental shift A Human Algorithm How Artificial Intelligence Is Redefining Who We Are examines the immense impact intelligent technology will have on humanity These machines while challenging our personal beliefs and our socioeconomic world order also have the potential to transform our health and well being alleviate poverty and suffering and reveal the mysteries of intelligence and consciousness International human rights attorney Flynn Coleman deftly argues that it is critical that we instill values ethics and morals into our robots algorithms and other forms of AI Equally important we need to develop and implement laws policies and oversight mechanisms to protect us from tech s insidious threats To realize AI s transcendent potential Coleman advocates for inviting a diverse group of voices to participate in designing our intelligent machines and using our moral imagination to ensure that human rights empathy and equity are core principles of emerging technologies Ultimately A Human Algorithm is a clarion call for building a more humane future and moving conscientiously into a new frontier of our own design Coleman argues that the algorithms of machine learning if they are instilled with human ethics and values could bring about a new era of enlightenment San Francisco Chronicle

Milestones in Analog and Digital Computing Herbert Bruderer,2021-01-04 This Third Edition is the first English language edition of the award winning Meilensteine der Rechentechnik illustrated in full color throughout in two volumes The Third Edition is devoted to both analog and digital computing devices as well as the world s most magnificent historical automatons and select scientific instruments employed in astronomy surveying time measurement etc It also features detailed instructions for analog and digital mechanical calculating machines and instruments and is the only such historical book with comprehensive technical glossaries of terms not found in print or in online dictionaries The book also includes a very extensive bibliography based on the literature of numerous countries around the world Meticulously researched the author conducted a worldwide survey of science technology and art museums with their main holdings of analog and digital calculating and computing machines and devices historical automatons and selected scientific instruments in order to describe a broad range of masterful technical achievements Also covering the history of mathematics and computer science this work documents the cultural heritage of technology as well The Human-Dimensions of Human-Computer Interaction E. McKay,2008-08-21 Presents a non technical discussion about everyday computer usage and deals with the human dimension or social context of effective HCI This title brings complexities of the human dimensions of HCI It includes chapters which are designed to set the background for the duality of the human machine dimensions of HCI Believing Minds. Fernando José Walsh,2025-10-09 Is science truly the enemy of faith Can a practicing scientist believe in God Is there an inevitable clash between scientific knowledge and the Bible From Copernicus 1473 1543 to contemporary researchers 200 highly distinguished scientists provide compelling testimony that science clearly affirms a Creator one perfectly consistent with the God revealed in the Scriptures This book delves into the lives and powerful convictions of these titans of science who

were also giants of faith The culmination of years of deep investigation this book uncovers a profound truth often obscured by media influence the supposed incompatibility between science and faith is a fallacy Instead it reveals that modern science was born and accelerated by thinkers who based their research on the foundational belief in a wisely designed universe They saw nature s laws as the imprint of a Supreme Creator who empowered humanity created in His image to discover these laws for universal good Explore the inspiring journeys remarkable achievements and deep spiritual convictions of legendary figures like Newton Galileo Pascal Morse Pasteur Edison Marconi and Einstein Featured within are over 30 Nobel Prize winners in crucial scientific fields alongside astronauts whose perspectives were transformed by their experiences Grounded in extensive meticulous research the book champions its thesis with undeniable clarity Science demonstrates that God exists Derek Barton 1918 1998 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 1969 Reverse Engineering Social Media Robert W

Gehl,2014-06-27 Robert Gehl s timely critique Reverse Engineering Social Media rigorously analyzes the ideas of social media and software engineers using these ideas to find contradictions and fissures beneath the surfaces of glossy sites such as Facebook Google and Twitter Gehl adeptly uses a mix of software studies science and technology studies and political economy to reveal the histories and contexts of these social media sites Looking backward at divisions of labor and the process of user labor he provides case studies that illustrate how binary Like consumer choices hide surveillance systems that rely on users to build content for site owners who make money selling user data and that promote a culture of anxiety and immediacy over depth Reverse Engineering Social Media also presents ways out of this paradox illustrating how activists academics and users change social media for the better by building alternatives to the dominant social media sites

Understanding Digital Humanities D. Berry,2012-02-07 Confronting the digital revolution in academia this book examines the application of new computational techniques and visualisation technologies in the Arts Humanities Uniting differing perspectives leading and emerging scholars discuss the theoretical and practical challenges that computation raises for these disciplines

When Computers Were Human Book Review: Unveiling the Magic of Language

In an electronic era where connections and knowledge reign supreme, the enchanting power of language has are more apparent than ever. Its power to stir emotions, provoke thought, and instigate transformation is really remarkable. This extraordinary book, aptly titled "**When Computers Were Human**," compiled by a highly acclaimed author, immerses readers in a captivating exploration of the significance of language and its profound impact on our existence. Throughout this critique, we shall delve into the book is central themes, evaluate its unique writing style, and assess its overall influence on its readership.

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