**The Myth of the Machine**

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**By Mike Bentley**

**Tiebreakers**

**1. A website devoted to software for this technology, dating from 1996, offered one of its 2018 Program of the Year awards to *Snowball Struggle*. The hacking group Cemetech wrote software such as Doors CS for this technology. The RPL programming language was designed for use in this tech. A 1986 policy in Connecticut opened the floodgates for makers of this tech. A custom CPU designed for this tech unusually had 56-bit registers to optimize BCD operations and was manufactured by (💾) HP. One of these devices had a secret command in the form of "Send (9prgmXXX" to run programs written in Z80 Assembly. In 2020, one company that makes these devices released new firmware that prevents sideloading to reduce cheating; newer versions of these devices have an "Exam Mode." For 10 points, (\*)** name these devices exemplified by the TI-84.

ANSWER: **graphing calculator** [anti-prompt on answers like TI-83 or TI-84; prompt on calculator]

**2. Between 1988 and 2006 Karen Cavale edited a magazine for collectors of this brand. The man who created this brand considered himself to be "the world's greatest swinger" and divorced Zsa Zsa Gabor when Gabor got sick of his "fur-lined sex dungeon." A successful rival to this brand was developed while Carter Bryant was still working at the company that owned it, prompting a series of lawsuits against MGA. Psychiatrist Ernest Dichter pitched this brand as "well groomed." (**💾**)** **Ruth Handler got the inspiration for this brand while visiting Switzerland where she encountered a German comic strip about a prostitute named Bild Lilli. A book on weight loss tied to this brand produced the notorious advice of "Don't Eat!" The company behind this toy engaged in a long legal dispute arguing that a rival called Bratz was an illegal copy. For 10 points, (\*)** name this fashion doll by Mattel.

ANSWER: **Barbie** dolls [prompt on Mattel]

**3. Description acceptable. This object was loaned to the Tokyo Museum of Science and Technology after being saved from a dumpster by the man who built it. This object, which hasn't been functional since at least 2002, originally had a stick wedged in it to secure a $75 Hitachi TV purchased at Walgreens by Al Alcorn. This object was once installed in a business that is today a comedy club called Rooster T. Feathers in Sunnyvale, California. This "fucking machine" broke after it got such heavy use that its (💾)** **coin slot malfunctioned. This object originally was positioned on a barrel in Andy Capp's Tavern, an establishment where the company that made it had earlier tested a version of *Computer Space*. For 10 points, (\*)** name this machine, a prototype of a two-player ball and paddle arcade game that was the first big hit for Atari.

ANSWER: the original ***Pong*** arcade cabinet [or the ***Pong*** prototype]

**4. One of the rarest variants of this product was given out as part of the Biscuit 'N Gravy Birthday Bunch at Bob Evans restaurants in the 1990s and featured Nickelodeon's Stick Stickly on the packaging. This product was invented in the 1920s after Edwin Perkins realized he could use it to reduce shipping costs from his mail-order catalog. After being acquired by General Foods in 1953, this product was advertised in a campaign featuring Elmer Fudd and Bugs Bunny that touted a new variant of it was easier to make because "there's no sugar to add." This brand appears in a (**💾**) phrase that became popular following the Jonestown Massacre, and a type of LSD-laced version of this brand titles a book by Tom Wolfe. Its mascot, much referenced by *Family Guy*, would proclaim “Oh, yeah!” For 10 points, (\*)** name this drink mix brand who mascot, a giant pitcher, liked to break through walls.

ANSWER: **Kool-Aid** [accept "Drinking the **Kool-Aid**" or **Fruit Smack**]

**5. Economists Howlett and Broadberry examined whether this decade's slogan of "business as usual" was appropriate or not for the British economy. In Britain, luxury goods such as clocks, movies and motorcycles were assigned a 33% levy in the McKenna duties passed during this decade. During this decade, the Bank of England raised bank rates from 3% to 8% but that wasn't enough to stop the first-ever closure of the London Stock Exchange. A Currency and Bank Notes Act passed in this decade took Britain off the gold standard. In this decade, American banks loaned the (💾) Anglo-French Financial Commission five hundred million dollars and Britain's defense spending increased from 3.1% to 40.8% of GDP. A “Carthaginian peace” treaty signed in this decade was harshly criticized by John Maynard Keynes for imposing ruinous reparations on Germany. For 10 points, (\*)** name this decade in which Britain fought World War I.

ANSWER: **1910s**

**6. James J. Reisdorff wrote a book titled for a man who supervised over 70 of these events. In 1932, the names "Hoover" and "Roosevelt" were painted on two objects involved in one of these spectacles by a man who used dynamite to make them more exciting. One of these events in “Crush, Texas” in 1896 centered on “Red” and “Green” and resulted in the death of 3 people after an unexpected boiler explosion. A technology called ATC reduces the likelihood of unintentional versions of these events, although that tech wasn't present in a (💾)** **2015 tragedy along the Northeast Corridor outside of Philadelphia that killed 8 people. For 10 points, (\*)** name these events once intentionally staged at state fairs, where engineers would jump out of speeding cabins prior to impact.

ANSWER: **train crash**es [or staged **train wreck**s; or **train accident**s; or **locomotive crashes**; or train **derailment**s; or **rail crashes**; prompt on wrecks or accidents or crashes]

**7. A man named Cort Allen accidentally purchased this company's archives from a furniture liquidation sale. A guerrilla team called the Software Development Support Group at this company wrote documentation for its first line of PCs after management withheld technical specs. Most early home computers by this company featured the POKEY sound chip. It's not Commodore, but it released the XE line of computers under CEO Jack Tramiel. The killer app for this company's first line of computers was the world's first 3D free-roaming computer game, *Star Raiders*. Its home computers included the ST. Epyx sold its design for the powerful but battery-hungry (**💾**) Lynx handheld to this company. After a split in 1984, the "games" version of this company continued to release arcade titles like *Gauntlet*. Earlier, it made *Asteroids*. For 10 points, (\*)** name this developer of the 2600 videogame console.

ANSWER: **Atari** [accept **Atari** Games or **Atari** Inc. or **Atari** Corporation; prompt on Warner Communications]

[Moderator note: The power marks on this question are different than in most other questions.]

**8. This scientist, 1976's "Data Processing Man of the Year," started a company called Trilogy that made a failed bet on large-scale integrated silicon wafers. A patented fin-shaped air-cooling technology allowed the machines manufactured by this man's namesake company to avoid the chilled water requirements of its main rival. Fujitsu ultimately purchased this man's namesake company; that company made devices like the 470V/6 that were plug-compatible with the System 370 machines made by his former employer, IBM. This man's most famous statement was published in a three-page paper at the 1967 Spring Joint Computer Conference. John Gustafson challenged a formulation named for this man, arguing that in the real world the problem size increases once more computing resources are available. For 15 points, name this computer scientist whose namesake law places a restriction on the maximum potential (💾)** **speedup in parallel computing.**

ANSWER: Gene **Amdahl** [or Gene Myron **Amdahl**]

**9. The IMSBC Code classifies swarf, an example of this stuff, as being “liable to self-heating and spontaneous ignition.” A huge demand for this stuff has severely polluted the water of Alang, a small town in Gujarat. In a Daffy Duck propaganda cartoon devoted to collecting this stuff, Hitler eats through a carpet in anger. An app for merchants trading in this stuff sources some prices from COMEX, and this stuff is the third-largest export for the Port of Los Angeles. Lord Beaverbrook once issued an appeal “to the women of Britain” to collect as much of this stuff as possible as part of his role as head of the Ministry of (💾) Aircraft Production. This stuff is usually the most valuable byproduct of ship breaking and is by far the most valuable recycled material in the US. For 10 points, (\*)** name this type of waste material that might be harvested the steel in a junked car.

ANSWER: scrap **metal** [or ferrous **scrap**; or **scrap** rubber; or waste **metal**; anti-prompt on answers like steel or aluminum or tin; prompt on garbage or junk or waste or recycled material]

**Science**

**10. Alicia Yin Cheng edited a 2020 photo-history of these items, noting that by the mid-19th century these "most fugitive ephemera" had come to closely resemble railroad timetables. Louis Brandeis's uncle Lewis Dembitz drafted the first-ever American law mandating a new type of these objects that were commonly referred to as the "Massachusetts" variety. Arguably the most notorious of these items in US history was designed by Theresa Le Pore to have deliberately large print. In the US, these things largely replaced the earlier *viva voce* system. The country of (**💾**) Australia was once synonymous with "secret" examples of these things. A poorly designed one of these items known as the "butterfly" example caused much confusion in Palm Beach County, Florida in 2000. For 10 points, (\*)** name these items that indicate which candidates a person is voting for.

ANSWER: **ballot**s [accept paper **ballot**s or **ballot** paper; prompt on paper; Alicia Yin Cheng's book is amusingly titled *This Is What Democracy Looked Like*]

**11. In 1994, a Finnish "internet terrorist" known as Cancelmoose developed the cancelbot that automatically deleted Usenet spam promoting this author's book *Net Chat*. A June 1998 issue of *Wired* contains an excerpt from a book by this author where he describes a failed attempt to raise enough money from The Washington Post to keep his digital publishing empire afloat. This founder of the aggregator site Newser made up many of the quotes in his dotcom tell-all book *Burn Rate*. He's better known these days for works like *The Man Who Owns the News*, a Rupert Murdoch biography. During a tour for this man's best-known book, he asserted that the book's subject was having an affair with (💾)** **Nikki Haley. That same book by this man was largely responsible for getting Steve Bannon fired. For 10 points,** (\*) name this author of *Siege* and one of the first tell-all books about the Trump presidency, *Fire and Fury*.

ANSWER: Michael **Wolff**

**12. The Latin motto *Vi Et Ictu* was adopted by a British force commanded by John Hearson that operated these things during World War II. Some of these things deployed in the Great Lakes region caused power outages and a loss of 400 tons of steel in the October Incident. Three "apron squads" that operated these things were based in Essex during World War I. These things inflicted little direct damage on Gotha legions. They weren’t placed underwater, but these things were typically spaced about 60 feet apart, had lead weights suspended from them, and operated between 7,000 and 10,000 feet. These things assisted (💾) artillery gunners by forcing enemies to fly at predictable heights, but high-altitude bombing rendered them obsolete. For 10 points, (\*)** name these defensive weapons that sought to make it harder for low-flying bombers to attack a city without getting caught in their wires.

ANSWER: **barrage balloon**s [prompt on balloon]