



4TH GENERATION [~1972 - 2000]

The fourth generations of computers had microprocessors (created by Ted Hoff), an upgrade to the Integrated Chip. This microprocessor contained literally thousands of transistors, which spoke of its ability to perform more calculations, in less time, using smaller computers. Created in 1973, the Xerox Alto was the world's first desktop. In 1981 Adam Osborne created the world's first portable computer, which he named the Osborne 1. Today's microprocessors contains tens of millions of microscopic transistors; this advancement has led to not only smaller and faster computers, but it can also take the credit of our 'smart devices' like our smart phones, smart TVs, smart watches, etc. As a result of these smaller and more powerful devices, computers could be connected to form networks, which eventually led to the development of the Internet. Fourth generation computers also saw the development of GUIs, the mouse and handheld devices.



1) Name of generation _____

2) What was the main component? _____

3) Draw your version of it.



4) Were there any shortcomings? If yes, what were they? _____

5) State one way in which this generation was better than the previous generation.

