

The Alternative Christmas Quiz 2006 (Computers)

- 1. Which storage medium is affected by airport X ray machines?
- X-rays are not magnetic. They are a form of electromagnetic energy which is light.
- 2. What does the O in BIOS stand for?

The Basic Input/Output System a.k.a. firmware of a PC prepares the machine so other software programs stored on various media (such as hard drives, floppies, and CDs) can load, execute, and assume control of the computer.

- 3. What was Microsoft's first commercial product? A tiny BASIC interpreter that ran in 4K of memory written by Paul Allen and Bill Gates (who incorporated the company 'Micro-Soft' in Albuquerque the same year) and Monte Davidoff.
- 4. Who made the first portable computer?
 Released in 1981 by the Osborne Computer Corporation, the Osborne 1's screen was only 5" (diagonal) in size and couldn't display more than 52 characters per line of text.
- 5. What do the letters DOS stand for? The first version of PC-DOS 1.0 was released in August, 1981. It supported up to 256 Kb of RAM and two 160 Kb 5.25" single sided floppy disks.
- 6. In which year was Windows 3.1 released? Using new features like a 'mouse' and multi-tasking, it was released in April 1992 and sold more than 1 Million copies within the first two months.
- 7. What was the name of the first CD ROM game? Published in 1992 by Virgin Games but written by Trilobyte, it was a video-based puzzle game told from the perspective of the player, as an amnesiac with clues biven by the mysterious Stauff.
- 8. What was the forerunner to Microsoft's DirectX? An optimized library designed to enable high-performance graphics techniques under Windows version 3.x, Win32s, Windows NT 3.5 and Windows 95.
- 9. What was the Zip 100 in 1996? The Zip drive is a removable disk storage system, introduced by lomega in late 1994. Originally it had a capacity of 100 MB, but later versions increased this to first 250 MB and then 750 MB.
- 10. Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker in the Star Wars films) starred in which PC game?
 Wing Commander is a series of space combat simulation computer games from Origin Systems, Inc.. Starting with Wing Commander III, all story scenes used live action filming, starring some major Hollywood actors, including John Rhys-Davies and Malcolm McDowell.

- a) Floppy discs
- b) Flash RAM
- c) CD-R
- d) None of the above
- a) Open
- b) Output
- c) Oxide
- d) Out
- a) Altair BASIC
- b) QBASIC
- c) QDOS
- d) CP/M
- a) IBM
- b) Osbourne
- c) Compaq
- d) Commodore
- a) Data Out System
- b) Disk Out System
- c) Disk Operating System
- d) Data Operating System
- a) 1989
- b) 1990
- c) 1991
- d) 1992
- a) Manic Mansion
- b) The 7th Guest
- c) The 11th Hour
- d) Return To Zork
- a) WinVGA
- b) DiamondX
- c) WinG
- d) DirectDraw
- a) The latest version of file compression software
- b) Transfer protocol for modems
- c) A picture file format
- d) A 100Mb parallel port disc drive
- a) Wing Commander
- b) Under a Killing Moon
- c) Ripper
- d) Tekwars



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11. What did Karl Ferdinand Braun invent in 1897 to help us see?

The CRT is still called the "Braun tube" (Braunsche Röhre) in German-speaking countries.

12. Which Windows operating system will Vista be when it is released?

There were three cancelled versions, Cairo (1998), Nashville (1996) a.k.a. Windows 95B and Neptune (1999) which was to be a home version or Windows 2000.

13. What is the Yellow Book?

The Rainbow Books are a collection of standards defining the allowed formats of Compact Discs. including Red Book (Digital Audio), Orange Book (CD-R, CD-RW) and White Book (VCD).

14. In what year was the "@" chosen for its use in e-mail addresses?

The @ symbol separates the email name (also called user name or email ID) and your email domain which is case insensitive.

15. Who is credited for developing the World Wide Web?

Sir Timothy John "Tim" Berners-Lee, KBE is the director of the World Wide Web Consortium, which oversees its continued development.

16. Which of the following file systems did Windows 95 not support?

File Allocation Table (FAT) is a partially patented file system developed by Microsoft for MS-DOS but Windows 95 only support FAT16.

17. In which year was Microsoft Windows XP released? The letters "XP" stand for experience. Codenamed Whistler after Whistler, British Columbia (as many Microsoft employees skied at the resort during its development.

18. Which video resolution is not correct for a standard display?

The correct resolution should be 800x600.

19. Which of the following file extensions is not an audio file format?

In MS-DOS and compatible DOSes a COM file is a simple type of executable file. The name of the file format is derived from the file name extension .com (not to be confused with the .com top-level domain).

20. What is the most amount of data you can save on a single layered DVD?

Although 4.7Gb is often quoted on discs, this reduces to 4.37Gb when the disc is formatted.

- a) Vector monitor
- b) Cathode Ray Tube
- c) Liquid Crystal Display
- d) Projector
- a) 13th
- b) 14th
- c) 15th
- d) 16th
- a) Specifications for CD-R, CD-RW discs
- b) Specifications for Computer Data CD
- c) Specifications for Digital Audio CD
- d) Specifications for VCD and Photo CD
- a) 1972
- b) 1976
- c) 1980
- d) 1984
- a) Alan Kay
- b) Jack Kilby
- c) Robert Noyce
- d) Tim Berners-Lee
- a) NTFS
- b) FAT32
- c) HPFS
- d) All of the above
- a) 2000
- b) 2001
- c) 2002
- d) 2003
- a) 640x480
- b) 800x680
- c) 1024x768
- d) 1152x864
- a) MP3
- b) AIF
- c) WAV
- d) COM
- a) 4813Mb (4.7Gb)
- b) 4483Mb (4.37Gb)
- c) 10035Mb (9.8Gb)
- d) 4000Mb (3.9Gb)