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Steve Wozniak's 9 Favorite Gadgets (http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets)

Jonathan Snyder and Brian X. Chen - Wired
Filed to: WOZ (/TAGWOZ) 12/06/10 10:20am (http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets)

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With new smartphones, laptops and tablets every day, it's easy to lose sight of how we got here in the first place. Steve Wozniak led a press tour
ghting some key gadgets that deeply influenced his work.

-cool-us-rounding-
"We've gone through more change in a single lifetime than probably any other time in history," the Woz said.

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was little more than a wild-eyed fantasy.
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Everything from punch-card machines to old-school supercomputers, and from disk stacks to transistor radios, inspired an ambitious geek who
would eventually create the Apple I computer that launched a PC revolution.

1232)
And while Woz eventually got forced out of Apple, his hometown hasn't forgotten him: There's a street in San Jose named Woz Way, after the
a-masterpiece-is-r-
town's favorite ultranerd.

s-satellites-withou-



### IBM 026 Punch-Card Machine

1949

Back when computers still weighed more than 100 pounds, they read punched cards whose holes represented digital information for computer programs. Introduced in 1949, IBM's 026 punch-card machine became a standard device in offices that relied on punch cards.

Steve Wozniak, who led a tour through the Computer History Museum's collection of ancient gadgets, reminisced about working with punch-card machines ([http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/news/2007/06/dayintech\\_0601](http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/news/2007/06/dayintech_0601)) when he was studying computer science in Berkeley. Back then, students would have to wait 40 minutes just to get their turn to punch cards for their programs.



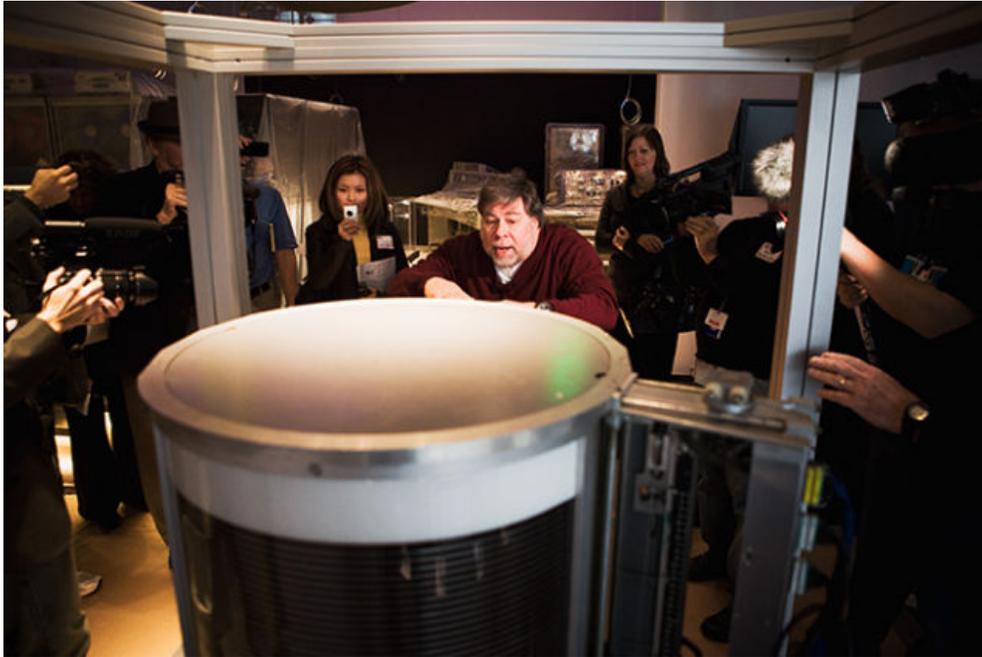
### Stibitz 1-Bit Model K Adder

1980 (replica)

Bell Labs researcher George Stibitz assembled a calculator in 1936 out of scrapped relays, capable of adding two binary digits. He made it on his kitchen table, hence the name Model K.

"We wouldn't have our iPhones today, if we didn't start out with stuff like this," Steve Wozniak said.

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### **IBM RAMAC Actuator and Disk Stack**

*1956*

It looks like a giant air purifier, but the contraption shown here was the heart of the world's first disk drive. It contains 50 24-inch disks stacked parallel, spinning at 1,200 rpm. It can hold 5 megabytes of information. The disk stack was made in San Jose, Steve Wozniak's hometown.

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### Control Data Corp. 6600 Supercomputer

1964

Computer designer Seymour Cray harvested a career out of building the world's fastest computers. The CDC 6600 supercomputer, pictured above, was 10 times faster than any computer at the time. Steve Wozniak said U.C. Berkeley owned a CDC 6600 while he was studying there, and at the time it was also the world's most expensive computer - about \$100 million in today's money.



### Data General Nova, Serial No. 1

1969

The Nova was one of the first minicomputers, unlocking the dream of having a computer small enough to fit in our own homes. Digital Equipment Corporation was a business selling minicomputers, and some engineers who were unhappy at the company resigned to form a competing firm, Data General. The engineers believed they could do a better computer based on a 16-bit design, and their resulting creation was

the Nova.

Steve Wozniak remembered that as a kid, he found a manual on assembling a minicomputer, which inspired him to try to create one of his own. He began tinkering with making circuit boards with as few chips as possible.

"My dad asked, how are you going to do that? One of those [computers] costs as much as a house," Wozniak said. "I said, 'I'll live in an apartment.'"

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## Honeywell Kitchen Computer

1969

Weighing over 100 pounds, the Honeywell Kitchen Computer's primary purpose was storing recipes.

It may look like a joke - and there's no evidence that Honeywell sold any of these machines, despite a prime listing in the Nieman Marcus catalog. But living inside the swooping lines of the cabinet was a Honeywell 316 minicomputer.

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That's the predecessor of the Honeywell 516 minicomputer that powered the first node of Arpanet, predecessor to the internet.

So in a way, it all goes back to the kitchen after all.

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### Regency TR-1 Transistor Radio

1954

The Regency TR-1 was one of the first transistor radios to go mainstream. It sold 100,000 units and introduced the word "transistor" to the public.

Repeating a phrase that he used several times during the tour, Steve Wozniak said without this technology, portable media players would never have come into existence - and without that, we wouldn't have iPhones today.

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### Pong

1972

Steve Wozniak saw a crude version of the game *Pong* (<http://www.wired.com/thisdayintech/2010/11/1129pong/>) in a bowling alley and said he had to have something like it. He spent five nonstop days to make his own version of the classic game.

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When he was done, Steve Jobs showed Woz's version of Pong to Atari to get himself a job there.

Woz was working at Hewlett-Packard and had no interest in leaving his dream job. But Atari hired him as a contractor to develop the game *Breakout*.

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## Apple 1

1975

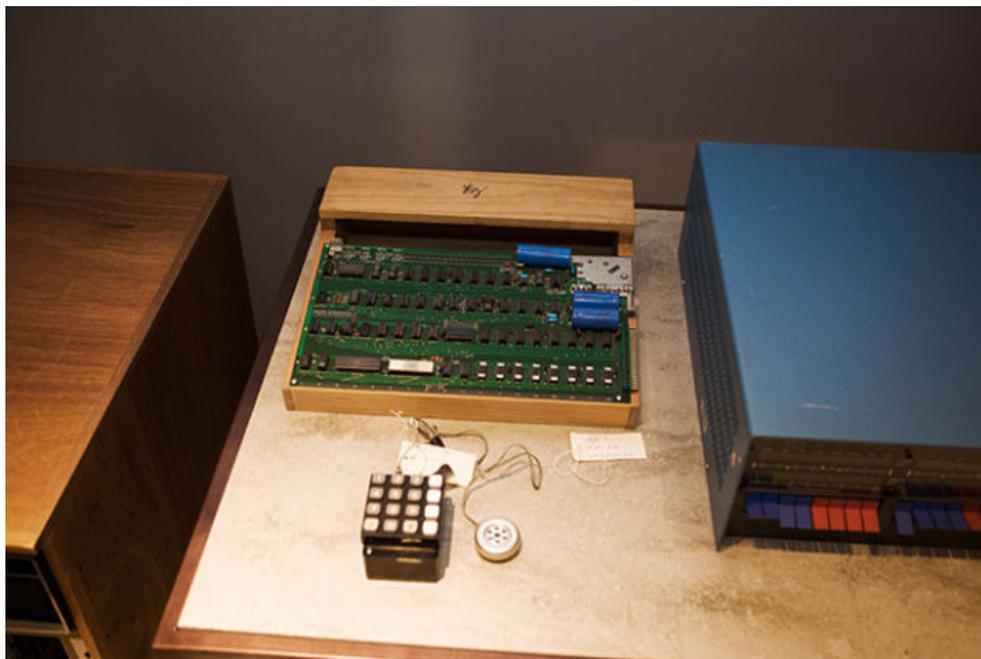
Steve Wozniak built the Apple I completely by hand and showed it off at the [Homebrew Computer Club](http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/news/2009/03/dayintech_0305) ([http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/news/2009/03/dayintech\\_0305](http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/news/2009/03/dayintech_0305)), a computer hobbyist club in Palo Alto. The Apple I didn't work

on its own: It was a fully assembled circuit board with about 60 chips that required owners to get their own case, power supply, display and so on before they could use it as a computer.

An idealistic Woz wasn't interested in making money, and he gave away the instructions to build the Apple I for free.

"I wanted to accelerate the world's advancement into a social revolution," Woz said. "Eventually [Steve Jobs](#) ([http://www.wired.com/science/planetearth/news/2007/04/DAYINTECH\\_0401](http://www.wired.com/science/planetearth/news/2007/04/DAYINTECH_0401)) came and said, 'Why don't we build it for them?'"

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Sam Biddle's Discussions (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets>)

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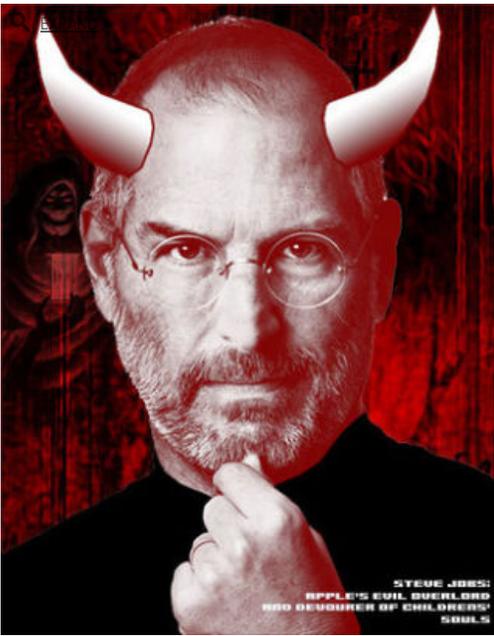
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 [Futhark \(http://futhark-old.kinja.com\)](http://futhark-old.kinja.com) ▶ Jonathan Snyder and Brian X. Chen - Wired  
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(<http://futhark-old.kinja.com>)

"Steve Wozniak saw a crude version of the game Pong in a bowling alley and said he had to have something like it. He spent five nonstop days to make his own version of the classic game.

When he was done, Steve Jobs showed Woz's version of Pong to Atari to get himself a job there."

No surprise here...



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[Bab00n \(http://bab00n-old.kinja.com\)](http://bab00n-old.kinja.com) ▶ Futhark

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@[Futhark](#): I had to read that twice in the article, incase I misread it, but wow steve is one dodgy guy,lol

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@[Futhark](#): I read a book on the history of Atari, and I remember they offered Jobs some huge bonus (relative to the time of course) for every computer chip Jobs figured out how to remove from the game. (This was to cut down on the cost of manufacturing and stuff)

Jobs had Woz do it, told him they were splitting the money, and gave him a really small fraction of the bonuses instead, while implying it was a fair amount.

The book said Woz didn't even know about that lie for decades.

Yeah, despite how anyone feels about Apple computers, it's hard to see Jobs as a good person.

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[Batmanuel \(http://batmanuel.kinja.com\)](http://batmanuel.kinja.com) ▶ Futhark

12/06/10 11:01am (<http://qizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33582996#comments>)

<http://batmanuel.kinja.com>

@[Futhark](#): He also screwed Woz when Woz helped him out on Breakout as well.

"They had an idea to turn Pong into a single player game, where the player would use a ball to deplete a wall of bricks without missing the ball on its rebound. Bushnell was certain the game would be popular, and the two partnered to produce a concept. Al Alcorn was assigned as the project manager, and began development with Cyan Engineering in 1975. The same year, Alcorn assigned Steve Jobs to design a prototype. Jobs was offered US\$750, with an extra \$100 each time a chip was eliminated from the prospected design. Jobs promised to complete a prototype within four days.

Jobs noticed his friend Steve Wozniak—employee of Hewlett-Packard—was capable of producing designs with a small number of chips, and

invited him to work on the hardware design with the prospect of splitting the \$750 wage. Wozniak had no sketches and instead interpreted the game from its description. To save parts, he had "tricky little designs" difficult to understand for most engineers. Near the end of development, Wozniak considered moving the high score to the screen's top, but Jobs claimed Bushnell wanted it at the bottom; Wozniak was unaware of any truth to his claims. The original deadline was met after Wozniak did not sleep for four days straight. In the end 50 chips were removed from Jobs' original design. This equated to a US\$5,000 bonus, which Jobs kept secret from Wozniak, instead only paying him \$375."

[en.wikipedia.org] ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breakout\\_\(video\\_game\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breakout_(video_game)))

Woz was really pissed about it back in the 80s when he first found out about it through a third party, which led to a falling out around the time the original Mac was released. The millions Woz made off his Apple stock helped ease the pain a bit, I think. As much of a dick as Steve is, Apple wouldn't be the company it is today without him, and I think Woz realizes this and is willing to forgive the dickishness since it gets results.

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[archercc \(http://archercc-old.kinja.com\)](http://archercc-old.kinja.com) ▶ Futhark

12/06/10 11:02am (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33583054#comments>)

(<http://archercc-old.kinja.com>)

@[Futhark](#): And convinced Woz to sell computers instead of giving away the info.

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12/06/10 10:25am

DesertSandMica started this thread



[DesertSandMica \(http://hotbutteredtoast.kinja.com\)](http://hotbutteredtoast.kinja.com) ▶ Jonathan Snyder and Brian X. Chen - Wired

12/06/10 10:25am (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33580922#comments>)

(<http://hotbutteredtoast.kinja.com>)



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NEEERRRRRDDDD!!

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[squirrel brain \(http://karmisson.kinja.com\)](http://karmisson.kinja.com) ▶ DesertSandMica

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@[HotButteredToast](#): brilliant lols..+1 internet to you and a heart click

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[McMike \(http://mcmike.kinja.com\)](http://mcmike.kinja.com) ▶ DesertSandMica

12/06/10 11:00am (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33582909#comments>)

(<http://mcmike.kinja.com>)



(<http://cache.gawker.com/assets/images/comment/4/2010/12/4a61f1f8aca387ab95444488a54c51ea/original.gif>)

@[HotButteredToast](#): Actually, Ogre and Oz actually have quite a lot in common these days.....

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[telepheedian \(http://telepheedian-old.kinja.com\)](#) ▶ [McMike](#)

12/06/10 11:18am (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33584101#comments>)

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@[McMike](#): Woz looks infinitely happier, FWIW.

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[Ron-Mexic0 \(http://ron-mexic0.kinja.com\)](#) ▶ [telepheedian](#)

12/06/10 11:24am (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33584449#comments>)

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@[telepheedian](#): He's infinitely richer.

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12/06/10 10:28am

[kaffenated](#) started this thread



[kaffenated \(http://kaffenated.kinja.com\)](#) ▶ [Jonathan Snyder and Brian X. Chen - Wired](#)

12/06/10 10:28am (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33581048#comments>)

(<http://kaffenated.kinja.com>)

An idealistic Woz wasn't interested in making money, and he gave away the instructions to build the Apple I for free.

"I wanted to accelerate the world's advancement into a social revolution," Woz said.

(Big Woz Hug)

This guy rocks. Color me impressed. He was open source before there was open source.

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[Garamond \(http://garamond-old.kinja.com\)](#) ▶ [kaffenated](#)

12/06/10 10:30am (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33581174#comments>)

(<http://garamond-old.kinja.com>)

@[kaffenated](#): The world could use more open source people like him.

Steve Wozniak for President in 2012!

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[gobildegook \(http://gobildegook-old.kinja.com\)](#) ▶ [kaffenated](#)

 10:36am (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33581518#comments>)

(<http://gobildegook-old.kinja.com>)

@[kaffenated](#): He would give the best hugs.

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[kaisermachhead \(http://kaisermachhead.kinja.com\)](#) ▶ Garamond

12/06/10 10:54am (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33582547#comments>)

(<http://kaisermachhead.kinja.com>)

@[Garamond](#): I have a feeling that becoming a politician would squish the life out of that open source ideal very quickly.

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[OneBigPear \(http://onebigpear-old.kinja.com\)](#) ▶ gobildegook

12/06/10 12:55pm (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33590715#comments>)

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@[gobildegook](#): He really would.

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12/06/10 1:04pm

[Ninety-9](#) started this thread



[Ninety-9 \(http://ninety-9.kinja.com\)](#) ▶ Jonathan Snyder and Brian X. Chen - Wired

12/06/10 1:04pm (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33591291#comments>)

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Steve Wozniak's 9 Favorite **VINTAGE** Gadgets

[#corrections \(http://gizmodo.com/tag/corrections/\)](http://gizmodo.com/tag/corrections/)

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[Angry Pig \(http://angry\\_pig.kinja.com\)](#) ▶ Ninety-9

12/06/10 2:40pm (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33598033#comments>)

([http://angry\\_pig.kinja.com](http://angry_pig.kinja.com))

@[Ninety-9](#): That would make more sense. I expected them to show me his favorite modern gadgets.

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[VijayS \(http://vijays.kinja.com\)](#) ▶ Ninety-9

12/06/10 7:01pm (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33616593#comments>)

(<http://vijays.kinja.com>)

@[Ninety-9](#): I know! I was hoping for his favorite modern gadgets!

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12/06/10 10:39am

[Curves](#) started this thread



[Curves \(http://curves.kinja.com\)](#) ▶ Jonathan Snyder and Brian X. Chen - Wired

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(<http://curves.kinja.com>)

"Steve Wozniak, who led a tour through the Computer History Museum's collection" would be the title of my best erotic dream. Woz is so wonderful, I know why Giz selected him as our spiritual leader.

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12/06/10 10:49am

[Jones Foyer](#) started this thread



[Jones Foyer \(http://xyling.kinja.com\)](#) ▶ Jonathan Snyder and Brian X. Chen - Wired

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(<http://xyling.kinja.com>)

Number 10: The mini-fridge.

12/06/10 12:23pm

YouISee started this thread

[YouISee \(http://youisee-old.kinja.com\)](http://youisee-old.kinja.com) ▶ Jonathan Snyder and Brian X. Chen - Wired12/06/10 12:23pm (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33588498#comments>)<http://youisee-old.kinja.com>

So basically Woz knows how to make things while Jobs is a stealing SOB.

I'm glad to see that the company for humanity is once again being exposed for the fakes they are. Maybe the customer base will pick up on it and start exploring alternatives not based on how the logo on the product.

[abes2 \(http://abes2-old.kinja.com\)](http://abes2-old.kinja.com) ▶ YouISee12/06/10 12:48pm (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33590273#comments>)<http://abes2-old.kinja.com>

@[YouISee](#): Steve knew how to market the hardware, something that Woz was never interested in. If it weren't for Steve, Woz probably would never have left HP.

Also, that fact has been known for a very long time. But .. what alternatives do you suggest? I'm assuming you don't mean Microsoft, so Linux?

I use Linux for servers, but have switched to Macs for desktop since sometimes I actually do want things to just work.

And do you \*really\* use your computer based on the personalities who make them? I'm sure Linus is a really nice guy, but I hear he can be difficult to get along with as well. GNU/HURD? Well, there's Stallman...

[blu4andor \(http://blu4andor-old.kinja.com\)](http://blu4andor-old.kinja.com) ▶ YouISee12/06/10 12:52pm (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33590513#comments>)<http://blu4andor-old.kinja.com>

@[YouISee](#): So you don't care about the product, you just care about the CEO eh? Yet you still find a way to act smug to everyone who owns an Apple computer. Nice job...

[YouISee \(http://youisee-old.kinja.com\)](http://youisee-old.kinja.com) ▶ blu4andor12/06/10 1:43pm (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33594024#comments>)<http://youisee-old.kinja.com>

@[Andorian25](#): So now the CEO doesn't reflect the company's agenda? Personalities affect the product since they have the power to ax or support it whether the idea is good or not.

Don't see Ballmer getting the same loyalty when he acts like a cock. His battered girlfriends don't come out of the woods to spin the press and back him up. They will criticize him.

Smug has been your game for years. Let's look at OSX and how it isn't the pillar of "stability" that it once was. Frankly, Vista prior SP1 was way worse and Win7 is far better.

[Daamian \(http://daamian.kinja.com\)](http://daamian.kinja.com) ▶ YouISee12/06/10 1:55pm (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33594855#comments>)<http://daamian.kinja.com>

@[YouISee](#): All I see is unnecessary vitriol from you. Steve Jobs is no more responsible for how OS X is and will be than the CEO of General Motors is responsible for how the Chevy Volt will drive. They may drive the overall vision to some extent, but not the finer details.

There's *plenty* of douchebag CEO's out there (hello, Activision!); are you going to stop using all of their products out of principal? I'm going to go out on a limb here and say you're full of it, just spouting hot air at this point.

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12/06/10 11:49am

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The Woz abides.

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12/06/10 10:44am

irishoob started this thread



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@[irishoob](#): Agreed.

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@[irishoob](#): I've seen those things up close. The size of the power conduit is stunning - it had to power some hella big motors compared to current storage devices!

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<http://rebeldevil.kinja.com>

[rebeldevil \(http://rebeldevil.kinja.com\)](http://rebeldevil.kinja.com) ▶ irishoob  
12/06/10 12:43pm (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33589905#comments>)

@[irishoob](#): holy crap, it does look like a huge pint of Guinness..

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<http://skunky.kinja.com>

[Skunky \(http://skunky.kinja.com\)](http://skunky.kinja.com) ▶ irishoob  
12/06/10 1:47pm (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33594324#comments>)

@[irishoob](#): I can't unsee it.

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12/06/10 11:29am

KenJr started this thread



[KenJr \(http://kenjr.kinja.com\)](http://kenjr.kinja.com) ▶ Jonathan Snyder and Brian X. Chen - Wired

12/06/10 11:29am (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33584762#comments>)

(<http://kenjr.kinja.com>)

At Fairchild R&D we made appointments the day before to get our 15 minute turn on the IBM 1130. The frustrating part was watching that computer cycle through my cards then mercilessly spit them out because some punch card operator made a single mistake. In both programming and computer use, a single mistake meant doing everything over again. Everything either worked or didn't work. There was no in between, no shades of gray. To be a computer person you had to be just as binary as the computers you worked with.

★ [Reply](#)



[topsully \(http://topsully.kinja.com\)](http://topsully.kinja.com) ▶ KenJr

12/06/10 12:05pm (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33587310#comments>)

(<http://topsully.kinja.com>)

@[KenJr](#): When/where were you at FCS? My father was in the San Rafael location from 1969 to around 1975.

★ [Reply](#)



[danielc305 \(http://danielc305-old.kinja.com\)](http://danielc305-old.kinja.com) ▶ KenJr

12/06/10 1:27pm (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33592882#comments>)

(<http://danielc305-old.kinja.com>)

@[KenJr](#): Fairchild, like the transistors?

★ [Reply](#)



[KenJr \(http://kenjr.kinja.com\)](http://kenjr.kinja.com) ▶ topsully

12/06/10 1:51pm (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33594583#comments>)

(<http://kenjr.kinja.com>)

@[topsully](#): Didn't get to know the folks at the San Rafael facility. Was pretty cloistered there in the Palo Alto site.

★ [Reply](#)



[wjbean \(http://wjbean-old.kinja.com\)](http://wjbean-old.kinja.com) ▶ KenJr

12/06/10 4:51pm (<http://gizmodo.com/5707086/steve-wozniaks-9-favorite-gadgets?comment=33607797#comments>)

(<http://wjbean-old.kinja.com>)

@[KenJr](#): For whatever its worth I thought Fairchild made some damned fine products.

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