Let's see what you know about the history of computers

When were computers invented?

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Late 1940's. There were calculating machines that were created during WWII that were somewhat like computers. The first commercial computers were sold in 1952. That's also the year I was born.

When were personal computers invented?

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Late 1970's. The Macintosh was introduced in 1984.

Who invented the Mouse -- Apple or Microsoft?

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Neither. Doug Engelbart invented the mouse (and called it a "mouse") in the late 1960's. Xerox developed the graphical user interface. Oberlin alum Stuart Card did the first user studies that showed that a mouse is an efficient way to work with a computer.

What was the first programming language? When was it created?

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FORTRAN, 1954

What other programming languages are there?

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There are thousands of programming languages. Designing a new language is not particularly difficult. If you want to create your own, take CSCI 331.

Here are a few languages you may have heard of.
BASIC, 1964
C, 1970
C++, 1979
Java 1991
Python 2000

Why do we use Python in CSCI 150?

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Python is an easy first programming language. It has more built-in tools than C, and simpler syntax than Java.