

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. This month's article is filled with some interesting computer facts. Enjoy and have a Happy Holidays!

On December 1st, the Internet celebrated its 10th birthday. So what were personal computers (PCs) like in 1994? Well, the operating system was a toss up between Windows 3.1 and DOS 6.0. Does anyone remember either of these two? Microsoft Word was the newcomer to WordPerfect and WordStar. The CPU was an Intel Pentium 100 MHz. Nowadays, the CPU is three generations later and running 20 to 25 times faster. RAM memory came on sticks of 1, 2 or 4 MBs each. Most computers handle between 4 and 32 MBs of RAM. The 5-1/4" floppy diskette was still around. In fact, most software shipped on either 5-1/4" or 3-1/2" floppy diskettes. Yes, CD-ROMs were around but they hadn't taken off in popularity yet. The CD-ROMs that were around were 4x or 8x in speed. And DVDs were in the design stage. I do remember having a CD Writer that ran at 1x speed, it took a couple of hours to make a copy of a CD. The two main network types and speed were: Ethernet 10 MBPS and Token Ring 16 MBPS. Looks like Ethernet has won out and with speeds of 100MBPS plus. Wireless networking was available but only used for connecting 2 networks together as it was a rather expensive technology. Hard drives were typically 100 to 200 MBs in size. Now we have Flash or Jump Drives that are bigger than that! New higher speed modems just emerged with a new speed of 28.8 Kbps. Funny thing here, this is still a very common modem speed. Yes, broadband modems are very common in the large population areas but in the rural areas dialup modems of 28.8 Kbps speed are in the majority.

I hope you enjoyed this look back of 10 years! And I hope you all have a Happy Holidays!

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer too, please forward them to me. My email address is meggert@wi.rr.com, my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.