- The earliest recorded calculating device is the abacus (4th century BC).
- The inventor of the first mechanical (digital) calculating device was a Roman professor named Wilhelm Schickard (1623).
- Blaise Pascal created a mechanical device that performed simple addition and subtraction (1642).
- Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz, first fully featured arithmetic calculators capable of performing both multi. + div. as well as add. + sub. (1674).
- J.M. Jacquard invented an automatic loom controlled by punch cards (1801).
- Charles Babbage conceived of a "Difference Engine" (1820 or 1821), then conceived the "Analytical Engine" (1833) use punch-cards similar to Jacquard.
- Ada Lovelace meets Babbage (1833) referred to as the first computer programmer.
- Herman Hollerith (1860-1929) reinvented the punched card. Founded the Tabulating Machine Company → IBM.
- Konrad Zuse built first general-purpose programmable digital computer.
- Binary math & boolean logic.
- ENIAC, first operational, general-purpose, programmable electronic digital computer. 1943-1945.
- Colossus, British computer used for code-breaking (1943).