

Convex C120-Supercomputer

The Convex C-120 supercomputer was manufactured by Convex Computer Corporation in 1991 as part of its third production series. Founded in 1982 and based in Richardson, Texas, the company produced these three series of super and mini supercomputers and was eventually acquired by HP in 1995.

The third series in particular attracted international attention, as four devices were also produced in this series that were manufactured using GaAs ICs, which were considered revolutionary at the time. These integrated circuits made of gallium arsenide allowed the Convex computers to advance 'into the class of real heavyweights', as they did not require complex cooling systems. The computers had a cycle time of 16.67 nanoseconds and a power consumption of 57 kWh with simple fan cooling.

The most expensive models of the Convex computers of the third series cost between one and eight million USD (2,100,000 - 16,800,000 CHF today). These computers had a main memory of 4 GB and a vector performance of between 480-1920 MFLOPs for 32-bit operations.

However, the computer that the URZ of the University of Basel bought at auction is not one of these high-end models of the third series. Today, the computer serves as a refrigerator for ice cream in summer.

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| Release year | 1991 |
| Introductory year | 22.12.1991 |
| Main memory | 32MB |
| Process location | Multibus I/O |
| Hard disc storage | 3GB |
| Clock frequency | 25 MHz |
| Main memory | 2 GB |
| MFLOPS | 200 |
| FLOP/Takt | 8 |
| £/MFLOP | 1.750 |
| Price | 300'000 \$ (631'000 CHF today) |

Macintosh 128K (M0001)

The Macintosh 128k went into production in 1984 and was produced until 1985. The retail price was around USD 2,500 (CHF 6,800 today).

The name 128K comes from the computer's main memory, which had a capacity of 128 KB and a read-only memory of 64 KB. The integrated drive was designed for floppy discs.

The Macintosh128K was the first commercially successful computer with a graphical user interface. The first ever computer with a graphical user interface was Apple's Lisa, which was launched in 1983 and cost USD 10,000 (CHF 28,800 today).

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Toshiba T3200SX

The Toshiba T3200SX went into production in 1989. The device had 1MB RAM and a hard disc of 40 or 80 MB. It also had a flat orange / amber plasma screen, which was an important step on the way to devices that no longer required any compromises. The LCD screens of the time were extremely sensitive to sunlight and were almost unusable after direct contact. The Toshiba T3200SX weighed an impressive 7.7 kg.

The computer cost over USD 6,000 (CHF 13,850 today).

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