The Evolution of the Microprocessor

This year, the humble microprocessor celebrates its 40th birthday. Since 1971, it has become the brain of literally millions of devices. Let’s look at some of the devices it has powered over the last 40 years...

The 1970s
From desk-filling calculators to desktop computers, microprocessors begin the journey destined to take computing into the mainstream.

The 1980s
Device design begins to change with the emergence of the first ‘laptop’ computers and a new generation of games consoles.

The 1990s
Computing becomes widespread; business and personal computing explodes with a wide range of desktops, laptops and early tablets.

The 2000s
Internet adoption goes mainstream and digital media grows exponentially – delivered by an array of new mobile devices designed to satisfy people’s appetite for content consumption.

The 2010s
The latest incarnation of the microprocessor delivers new levels of power-efficient performance. Users enjoy a new immersive computing experience which is increasingly shared through social media.