If a village with a 1971 population of 100 had grown as quickly, it would now be by far the largest city in the world.

Today you can power roughly 10,000 transistors for what it cost to power 1 transistor in 1971. Good thing, too, because at those rates, powering a laptop today would cost over $25,000 per month.

For 1971's 4004 processor, $1 bought around 37 transistors. For today's Intel® Core™ i7 processor, $1 buys close to 2 million transistors. If cars had followed that trend, you could take that same $1 and buy a brand-new Porsche.

If space travel had come down in price as much as transistors have since 1971, the Apollo 11 mission, which cost around $355 million in 1969, would cost about as much as a latte.

Bell Labs' original transistor in 1947 was large enough to be assembled by hand. By contrast, today's transistor can sit comfortably on the head of a pin—along with 100 million other transistors.

As you can see, a lot has happened here at Intel in the last 40 years. To find out more, visit us at www.intel.com or join the conversation by following #40thCPU.