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.

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The current Intel® Core™ processor has more transistors than the 4004 processor.

When released in 1981, the first well-equipped IBM PC cost about $11,250 in inflation-adjusted 2011 dollars. Today, much more powerful PCs are available in the $500 range (or even less).

Our kind of PIN number

Processor

PENNY SAVED...

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

HOW FAST?

The 4004 processor used 37 transistors back in 1971, while today's Intel® Core™ i7 processor can run 92 billion instructions per second. Today's processors can do that in less than a second.

I'M SHRINKING...

Just think: What if the world had followed this golden rule the last 40 years?

The world's first microprocessor was the Intel® 4004.

Intel co-founder Gordon Moore once made a famous prediction that transistor count for computer chips would double every two years.

Using Moore's Law as a guiding principle, Intel has provided ever-increasing functionality, performance and energy efficiency in its products.

Fly me to the moon

Porsche for a buck

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