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Life After Computer Literacy

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Life after Computer Literacy

As We Know IT (Information
Technology) Today

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Computer Literacy as Defined Today

How our courses and textbooks developed into the current format

Two Parts to Literacy

- Computer Concepts
 - Concepts textbook
 - May be combined with technology in one course
- Computer Technology
 - Technology step-by-step textbook
 - May be combined with concepts in one course

Computer Concepts

- Introduction to Computers
- The Internet and the World Wide Web
- Application Software
- The Components of the System Unit
- Input and Output
- Storage

Computer Concepts

- Operating Systems and Utility Program
- Communications and Networks
- Database Management
- Computer Security , Ethics, and Privacy
- Information System Development
- Enterprise Computing

Computer Technology

- Word Processor
- Spreadsheet
- Database
- Graphics

Why This Format?

- Original intro course for computer majors
- Necessity to understand computer and components
 - Hardware versus software
 - Components of the hardware
 - Types of software



Figure 1. IBM System/360 Model 40 Data Processing System



Why This Format?

- Change to general audience with introduction of PC's
- Simplification of original to accommodate new audience

Computer Literacy for a New Generation

The class of 2012 has grown up in an era where:

- Computers and rapid communication are the norm.
- Colleges no longer trumpet the fact that residence halls are “wired” and equipped with the latest hardware.
- These students will hardly recognize the availability of telephones in their rooms since they have seldom utilized landlines during their adolescence. They will continue to live on their cell phones and communicate via texting.
- Roommates, few of whom have ever shared a bedroom, have already checked out each other on Facebook where they have shared their most personal thoughts with the whole world.

Two Parts to Computer Literacy

- Computer Technology: Let us leave it alone
- Computer Concepts: Let us change it
 - You drive a car but were never required to take a course that included how the components work.
 - You learned how to drive (use) the car and where to take it for repairs.
- Should we have 2 courses instead of 1?

How to Change the Format

Current Computer Literacy

- Organization: Computer components
- Media: Reading textbook
- Focus: Cover everything

Future Computer Literacy

- Organization: Computer uses
- Media: Minimal text
- Focus: Give student choices of topics to explore over the Internet

What Chapters Should Make Up the New Computer Literacy Textbook?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

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