

### A Day in the Life of a Digital Citizen

The sound of the alarm you asked your smart speaker to set last night wakes you up. You can smell the coffee brewing from the coffee maker you programmed to go off five minutes before your alarm. Once you leave for work, your thermostat will adjust the temperature by five degrees and then maintain it a more comfortable temperature by the time you arrive home.

On your way to and from work, you check the public transit payment app on your phone (Figure 1-2) to locate and get directions to the nearest subway station. Once there, you use your phone to pay your fare and access the transit. A screen in the station displays an alert when the train is incoming. As the subway speeds toward the next station, it relies on sensors to determine any remaining traffic and report delays, change its route, and be more available to you.

**Figure 1-2** You can use apps to find out information about public transit options.



You walk into a clothing store, searching for a new sweater. The talk to a sales associate, who uses a tablet to look up your personal profile, including your purchases, based on your phone number. The sales associate tells you what size you wear and what colors you have bought in the past few years. Together, you find a sweater that fits and that is not similar to anything in your wardrobe. Before using the store's self-checkout, you check your store loyalty app on your smartphone to see what coupons are available.

Later, back at home, you sign in to your school's network to access your assignments. You use videoconferencing to discuss a group project with your classmates and complete a research paper using credible online sources, giving proper citations to the facts and quotes you find. You save your paper using the school's plagiarism checker and then email your paper layout for the night. You make sure your alarm is set on your phone for tomorrow, and then you call it a night.

### Consider This

#### What is digital distraction?

**Digital distraction** is the practice of using web sites or technology to work that you do not pay enough attention to your real, in-person activities. Digital distraction might be characterized by using your smartphone while having dinner with others, instead of interacting with them, or checking your social media during class. Digital distraction can lead to negative effects, such as lower grades, strained relationships, or feelings of an injury or accident because of your lack of awareness of your surroundings. How do you see how well a virtual screen being digitally distracted? What

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activity as a whole has changed significantly, as well. The devices connect us to a variety of other users and to other devices because of the evolution of technology. This can be both positive and negative and can create a division between those who have access to technology and those who do not.

### The History of Computers

People have relied on tools and machines to count and compute numbers for thousands of years. These tools and technologies have evolved from the abacus to ancient times, to the first computing machines in the nineteenth century, to today's powerful household devices, such as smartphones and tablets.

The first generation of computers used **vacuum tubes** (Figure 1-3), which are cylindrical glass tubes that controlled the flow of electrons. The ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer) and UNIVAC (Universal Automatic Computer) are examples of these expensive machines. Their use and availability were limited due to their large size, the amount of power they consumed, the heat they generated, and how quickly they wore out.

**Figure 1-3** Electronic digital computer with vacuum tubes.



In the 1970s and 1980s, computers meant for personal use started to gain popularity. In 1976, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak of Apple Computer Corporation introduced the Apple II (Figure 1-4), a personal computer with color graphics and popular spreadsheet software called VisiCalc.

**Figure 1-4** Apple II computer.



IBM followed Apple's lead in 1981, introducing its **personal computer (PC)** intended for individual use instead of commercial or industrial. Other manufacturers also started making similar machines, and the market

# Computers In Action Discovering Computers

**Huangqi Zhang**



## **Computers In Action Discovering Computers:**

## Unveiling the Power of Verbal Beauty: An Psychological Sojourn through **Computers In Action Discovering Computers**

In some sort of inundated with screens and the cacophony of immediate connection, the profound energy and mental resonance of verbal beauty usually fade in to obscurity, eclipsed by the regular assault of noise and distractions. However, set within the lyrical pages of **Computers In Action Discovering Computers**, a interesting function of literary brilliance that impulses with fresh emotions, lies an unique trip waiting to be embarked upon. Written by a virtuoso wordsmith, that enchanting opus books viewers on a mental odyssey, lightly revealing the latent potential and profound impact embedded within the complex web of language. Within the heart-wrenching expanse of this evocative examination, we shall embark upon an introspective exploration of the book is key themes, dissect its charming publishing type, and immerse ourselves in the indelible impact it leaves upon the depths of readers souls.

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