Paper #1 – How Did We Get Here?
1250 word minimum

**Topic:**
Looking at the history of computers and computation, give a narrative of how we got to the place we currently are. The paper will present a historical progress focusing on a certain aspect of society that has come to use computers, illustrating the broader progress that these computers have followed in our society. This paper will address: the importance of your chosen group, how computer technology has become integrated over time, and what this has to say about the broader progress of computers throughout society. The article must *not* have a value judgment, but should present the central issues relevant to the integration of computers into this aspect of society.

**Goal:**
The goal is to develop a story that examines a sub-set of computer technology users to tell the broader story of how computers have developed and the impact they have had on society. Thus, this paper will give you a framework of how computers have developed over time.

**General requirements and information:**

- The paper will not be written in 1st person.
- The topics of “games” and “consumer music distribution” are not allowed without prior approval from Matt.
- All information in the article will be referenced with endnotes.
- References do not contribute to word count.
- All references can be in the format of your choosing, but must provide enough information to find the reference.
- The references must come from three or more major sources, so you cannot rely exclusively on a single source (like the New York Times).
- Wikipedia is a good starting point, but cannot be cited in this paper.
- All references must be the primary reference. So if you find an article on bionic limbs in Newsweek, you should try to track the information back to its source.
- There are many good accessible magazines from the ACM and IEEE
  - Communications of the ACM
  - IEEE Computer
  - IEEE Annals of the History of Computing
  - IEEE Spectrum
- Technically inclined students are encouraged to be technical but it is not required.
- All papers should focus on a *qualitative* analysis of the topic.

**Important Dates:**
Week 2: Monday (1/30) – Assignment distributed and discussed in class
Week 4: Sunday (2/12) – WA draft due by 11:59pm
Week 6: Sunday (2/26) – Final Draft due on Moodle by 11:59pm