

Second Generation

The period of second generation was 1959-1965.

This generation using the transistor were cheaper, consumed less power, more compact in size, more reliable and faster than the first generation machines made of vacuum tubes. In this generation, magnetic cores were used as primary memory and magnetic tape and magnetic disks as secondary storage devices.

In this generation, assembly language and high-level programming language like FORTRAN, COBOL were used.

There were Batch processing and Multiprogramming Operating system used.



The main features of Second Generation are:

- Use of transistors
- Reliable as compared to First generation computers

- Smaller size as compared to First generation computers
- Generate less heat as compared to First generation computers
- Consumed less electricity as compared to First generation computers
- Faster than first generation computers
- Still very costly
- A.C. needed
- Support machine and assembly languages

Some computers of this generation were:

- IBM 1620
- IBM 7094
- CDC 1604
- CDC 3600
- UNIVAC 1108



CDC 1604



CDC 3600



UNIVAC 1108



IBM 1620