Fourth Generation

The period of Fourth Generation was 1971-1980.

The fourth generation of computers is marked by the use of Very Large Scale Integrated (VLSI) circuits. VLSI circuits having about 5000 transistors and other circuit elements and their associated circuits on a single chip made it possible to have microcomputers of fourth generation. Fourth Generation computers became more powerful, compact, reliable, and affordable. As a result, it gave rise to personal computer (PC) revolution.

In this generation, Time sharing, Real time, Networks, Distributed Operating System were used.

All the higher level languages like C and C++, DBASE, etc., were used in this generation.

The main features of Fourth Generation are:

- VLSI technology used

- Very cheap

- Portable and reliable

- Use of PC's

- Very small size

- Pipeline processing

- No A.C. needed

- Concept of internet was introduced

- Great developments in the fields of networks

- Computers became easily available

Some computers of this generation were:

- DEC 10

- STAR 1000

- PDP 11

- CRAY-1 (Super Computer)

- CRAY-X-MP (Super Computer)

CRAY-1 (Super Computer)

CRAY-X-MP (Super Computer)

DEC 10

PDP 11

STAR 1000