



What the Dormouse Said: How the Sixties Counterculture Shaped the Personal Computer Industry

By John Markoff

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Most histories of the personal computer industry focus on technology or business. John Markoff's landmark book is about the culture and consciousness behind the first PCs—the culture being counter– and the consciousness expanded, sometimes chemically. It's a brilliant evocation of Stanford, California, in the 1960s and '70s, where a group of visionaries set out to turn computers into a means for freeing minds and information. In these pages one encounters Ken Kesey and the phone hacker Cap'n Crunch, est and LSD, **The Whole Earth Catalog** and the Homebrew Computer Lab. **What the Dormouse Said** is a poignant, funny, and inspiring book by one of the smartest technology writers around.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Since much of the research behind the development of the personal computer was conducted in 1960s California, it might seem obvious that the scientists were influenced by the cultural upheavals going on outside the lab. Very few people outside the computing scene, however, have connected the dots before Markoff's lively account. He shows how almost every feature of today's home computers, from the graphical interface to the mouse control, can be traced to two Stanford research facilities that were completely immersed in the counterculture. Crackling profiles of figures like Fred Moore (a pioneering pacifist and antiwar activist who tried to build political bridges through his work in digital connectivity) and Doug Engelbart (a research director who was driven by the drug-fueled vision that digital computers could augment human memory and performance) telescope the era and the ways its earnest idealism fueled a passion for a computing society. The combustive combination of radical politics and technological ambition is laid out so convincingly, in fact, that it's mildly disappointing when, in the closing pages, Markoff attaches momentous significance to a confrontation between the freewheeling Californian computer culture and a young Bill Gates only to bring the story to an abrupt halt. Hopefully, he's already started work on the sequel. *Agent, John Brockman.*(Apr.)

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From the Inside Flap

Thanks to the cunning of history and the wondrous strangeness of Northern California, the utopian counterculture, psychedelic drugs, military hardware and antimilitary software were tangled together inextricably in the prehistory of the personal computer. Full of interesting details about weird but not arbitrary connections, John Markoff's book tells one of the oddest--because truest--of California tales and thereby helps illuminate the still unsettled legacy of the Sixties.

--Todd Gitlin, author of *Media Unlimited* and *The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage*

From the Back Cover

"Wonderful . . . [It] makes a mind-blowing case that our current silicon marvels were inspired by the psychedelic-tinged, revolution-minded spirit of the sixties. It's a total turn-on."

—Steven Levy, author of *Hackers*

Users Review

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Mark Feaster:

The publication with title *What the Dormouse Said: How the Sixties Counterculture Shaped the Personal Computer Industry* contains a lot of information that you can find out it. You can get a lot of advantage after read this book. That book exist new know-how the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world today. That is important to yo7u to learn how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you inside new era of the internationalization. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

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Lenora Dryer:

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