

Hello!



Bridgefest 2.0

Thank you, Stelios!

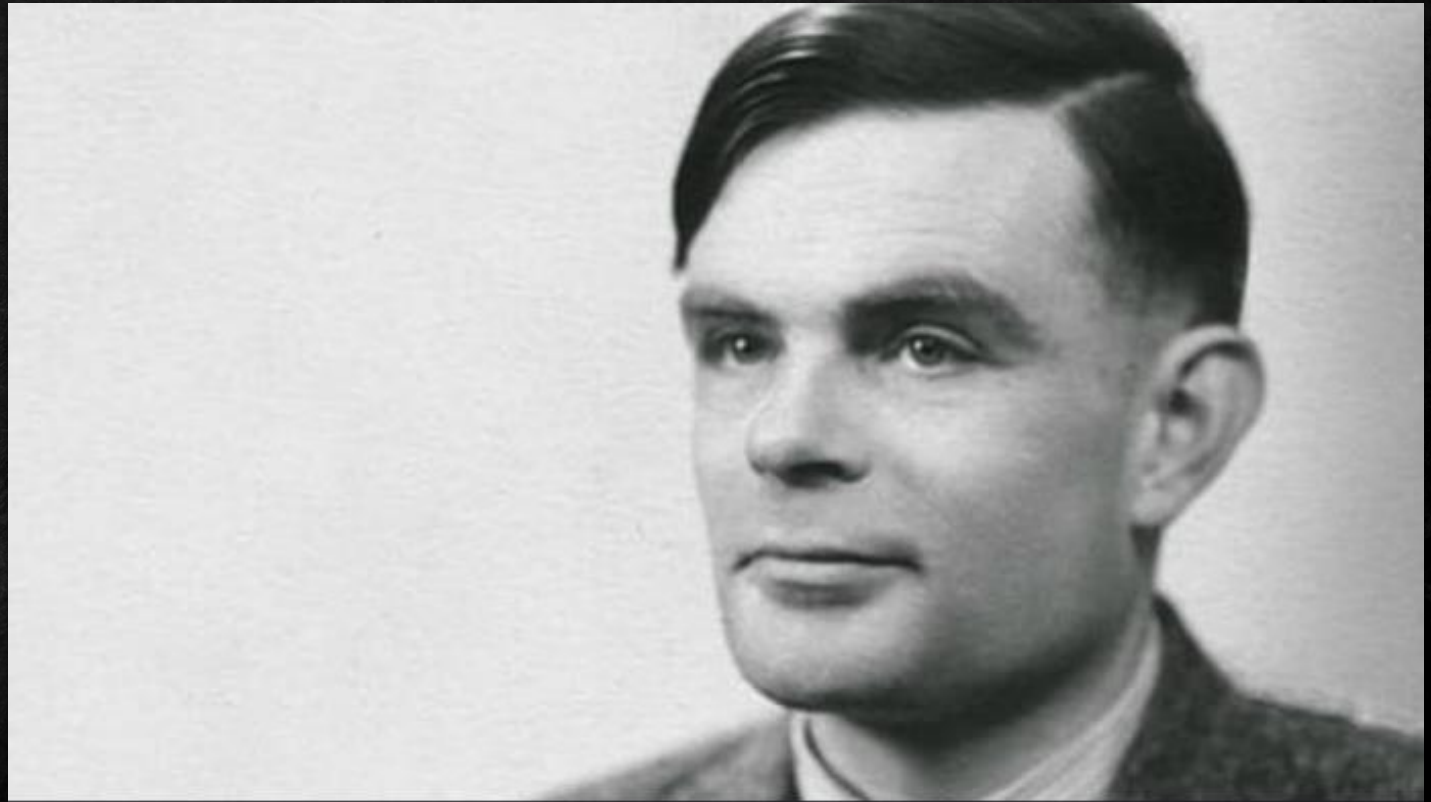


Oddballs and Visionaries



Aaron Swartz
Terry A. Davis
Margaret Hamilton
Hans Reiser
Alan Turing
Ada Lovelace
Hedy Lamarr
John McAfee

”Alan Turing invented the
computer to kill nazis.
Everything else since then has
been a steady downhill slide”



- Turing Machine (1936): Introduced the concept of a hypothetical machine—now known as the Turing Machine—which formalized the ideas of algorithm and computation. This became the cornerstone of theoretical computer science.
- Bletchley Park Contributions: Played a central role in cracking the German Enigma cipher, dramatically shortening World War II.
- Turing Test (1950): Proposed a test to determine whether a machine can exhibit intelligent behavior indistinguishable from that of a human. This remains a key concept in AI philosophy and research.
- Tried out for the 1948 British Olympic team, but he was hampered by an injury. His time was only 11 minutes slower than British silver medallist Thomas Richards' Olympic race time of 2 hours 35 minutes

“Here, Margaret is shown standing beside listings of the software developed by her and the team she was in charge of, the Lunar module and Command module on-board flight software team”



- Director of Software Engineering at MIT Instrumentation Lab: Led the team that developed the onboard flight software for NASA's Apollo missions, including Apollo 11, the first Moon landing in 1969.
- Developed software that handled real-time computing and priority scheduling
- Advocated for software to be treated as a formal engineering discipline. She helped define key practices in modern software development, such as rigorous testing, documentation, and validation.
- She helped legitimize software engineering as a profession and inspired generations of women in STEM.

“It's good to be king. Wait, maybe. I think maybe I'm just like a little bizarre little person who walks back and forth. Whatever, you know, but...”



- Single-handedly designed and built TempleOS. The equivalent of “building a skyscraper alone”
 - God talked to him
- His story has inspired discussions about the intersection of mental health and creativity in the tech world

“I can excuse everything but boredom. Boring people don't have to stay that way.”



- Austrian-American actress and self-taught inventor whose technical contributions helped lay the groundwork for modern wireless communication
 - During World War II, co-invented a frequency-hopping spread spectrum technology with composer George Antheil
- The invention was designed to prevent enemy interception of radio-controlled torpedoes by rapidly switching frequencies, making the signal hard to jam or track
 - Inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame (2014)

“With enough of us, around the world, we'll not just send a strong message opposing the privatization of knowledge — we'll make it a thing of the past. Will you join us?”



- Co-creator of RSS 1.0 (at age 14): Helped develop the Really Simple Syndication (RSS) web feed format, a major step in syndicating web content.
- Contributor to Markdown: Worked with John Gruber to improve Markdown, a lightweight markup language now widely used.
- Reddit Co-founder: After merging his startup Infogami with Reddit in 2005, Swartz became a key figure in building the platform before it was sold.
- Open Library: Worked on the Open Library project at the Internet Archive, aiming to create a free, universal digital catalog of all books.

“The more I study, the
more insatiable do I feel
my genius for it to be”



- She is known as the world's first computer programmer for her visionary work on Charles Babbage's early mechanical general-purpose computer.
- In 1843, she translated an Italian paper on Babbage's Analytical Engine and added extensive original notes—three times longer than the original text.
- It was then she published the first algorithm intended to be carried out by a machine, making her the first person to recognize that a machine could follow a sequence of instructions to perform complex tasks.
 - Such a machine “*might compose elaborate and scientific pieces of music of any degree of complexity or extent.*”
 - Her ideas were underappreciated during her lifetime, they gained recognition in the 20th century as foundational to computer science.

“Success for me, is being
able to wake up in the
morning and feel like a 12-
year-old”



- He is recognized as a founding figure in antivirus software and one of the first to monetize cybersecurity.
- Created the first widely-used antivirus software, which helped define the modern cybersecurity industry.
- His company released early commercial antivirus products for DOS and Windows and played a major role in raising awareness about digital threats.
 - Implicated in a neighbor's death in Belize
- Arrested multiple times for tax evasion, weapons possession, and fraud. Indicted in the U.S. on multiple charges related to tax and cryptocurrency schemes.

“At the time I killed Nina, I didn't understand she was jealous of her own children. It seemed like unfathomable psychopathy. Now that I've spent time in prison, psychopathy seems more humanly understandable to me”



Developed ReiserFS, one of the first journaling file systems for Linux.

It offered high performance for small files, advanced directory handling, and dynamic inode allocation.

Founded Namesys, a company dedicated to file system innovation and support. It received some funding from the U.S. government and others for its work on data storage technologies

Murdered his wife “for the good of their children”

*“Be weird, be kind, be an
oddball, be a visionary”*

Thank you😊