

In a high-tech twist on the charity auction, The Computer Museum is hosting "The First Internet Auction" April 22-29, 1994, to support its educational programs. The Auction, the first of its kind, will be conducted entirely through electronic mail on the Internet using software created and donated by Enterprise Integration Technologies (EIT). Appropriately, many of the items up for bid are vintage components or documents of technologies from which the Internet ultimately evolved.

The Computer Museum First Internet Auction is open to anyone who sends e-mail to: "auction-info@auction.tcm.org". A computer server functions as the "auctioneer," and anyone who submits a bid becomes a participant. People who want to bid but do not have e-mail can call (617)426-2800 x322 or e-mail from a terminal in The Computer Museum Store from 10am to 5pm daily.

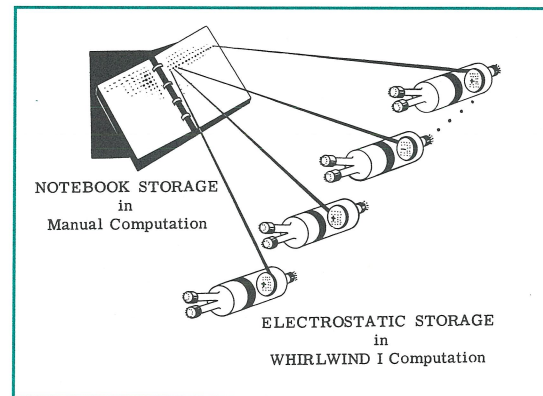
Over 60 items include early computing memorabilia and a unique assortment of goods and services donated by industry leaders. Bidding for the most affordable items, such as Cardiac, a cardboard computer developed at Bell Labs, begins at \$5.00. The most expensive item is an Ethernet Sniffer™ network analyzer (worth \$10,000) from Smart Valley's Harry Saal and the Network General Corporation, which starts at \$3,000.

For computing entertainment, highlights include the opportunity to have an evening playing Space Wars, the "mother" of all computer games, on a 1962 PDP-1 at The Computer Museum. For the highest bidder, Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates is providing the entertainment selection he'd want with him if stranded on a desert island (with electricity). Miller Communications is offering PR wizard Fred Hoar's services as toastmaster or ghostwriter. Plus, a panoply of entertainment tickets and other services are up for bid.

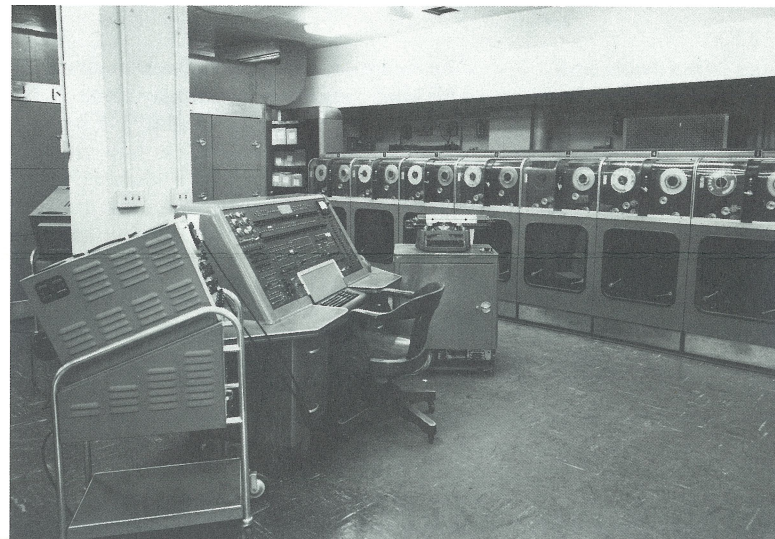
For computer history and nostalgia buffs, the Auction has over 25 items: original material from MIT's 1952 Whirlwind computer and, from the other end of Cambridge, a Harvard Mark I "package" including a tour of the computer at the Croft Computation Laboratory. The Auction also offers collectors rare product manuals and books, many signed by their authors or key industry figures. The selection includes a collection of essays by and about Albert Einstein, signed by himself, and a first edition of *Cybernetics*, signed by Norbert Wiener.

# Museum Brings Auction Block To Cyberspace In

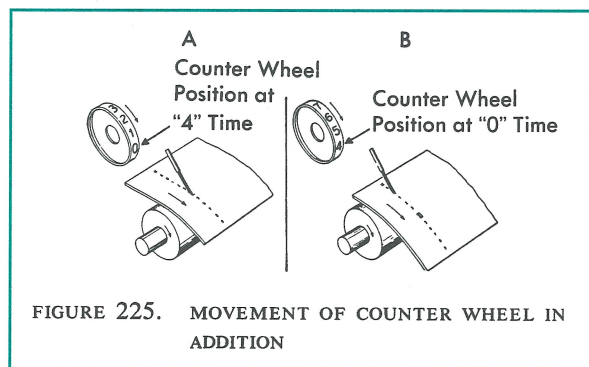
## The 1st Internet Auction



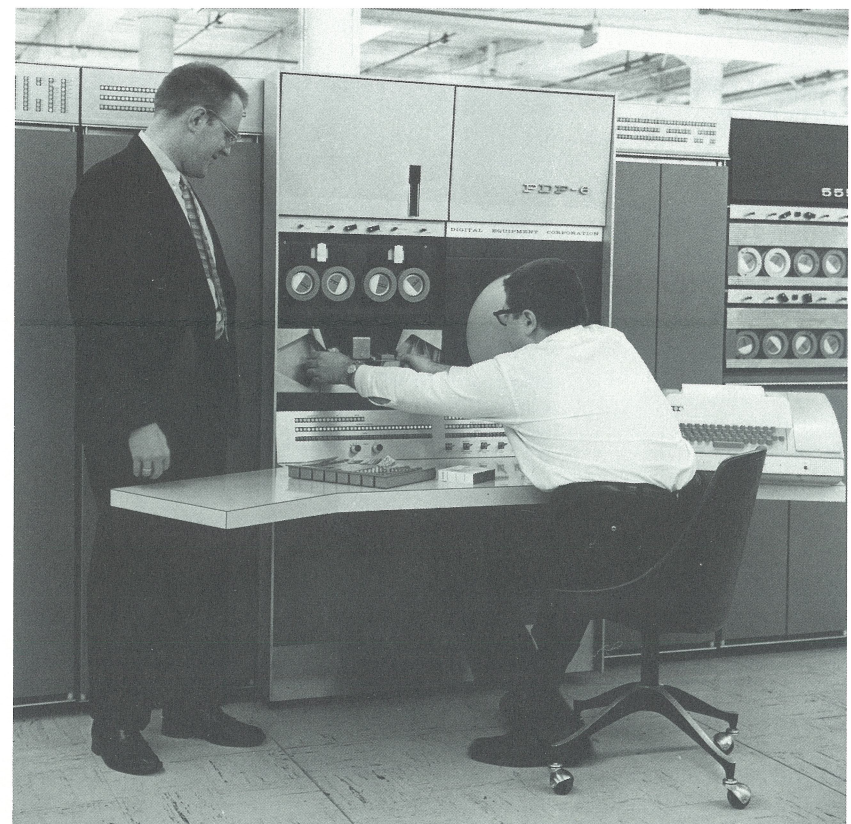
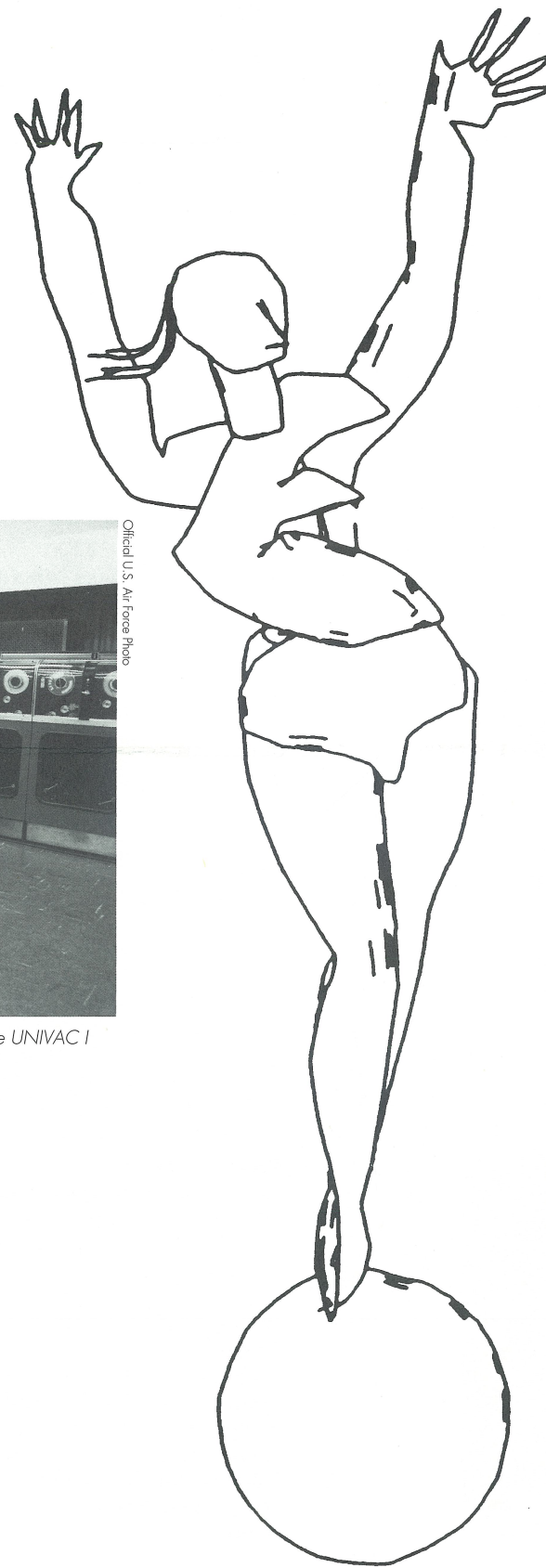
This illustration is from an original Whirlwind I manual featured in the Auction.



The Auction features original 1950s' manuals that explain how to program the UNIVAC I (seen above).



This illustration is from a classic 1960 IBM Reference Manual, which—along with the actual brushed aluminum plugboard and patch cords—is up for bid.



Computer engineer Gordon Bell (seen above in 1966 with fellow engineer Alan Kotok at a PDP-6) has donated an autographed copy of his Computer Engineering: A DEC View of Hardware Systems Design (1978), along with rare modules from the PDP-1, 4, 6, 8, and 11. Starts at \$50.00.

The drawing is from Aaron's Code: Art, Artificial Intelligence and the Work of Harold Cohen (1991), donated by author Pamela McCorduck and signed by her and Cohen. The bidder also receives an original Cohen print and two invitations to the premier showing of his painting robot machine. Starts at \$175.00.

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**How It Works**  
To bid, send an e-mail at any time to: "auction-info@auction.tcm.org". Instructions and a registration form are returned promptly via e-mail. When you return the completed registration form via e-mail, a confirmation and list of Auction items are automatically forwarded. (Participants who wish to remain anonymous may choose a "handle.")

Bidding begins on April 22 at 10am, EST. The Auction continues 24-hours-a-day until the last items close April 29 at 8pm, EST. The server "auctioneer" processes bids according to arrival time and returns e-mail messages as bids are accepted or superceded. Every day, starting April 25, some items close. When time is almost up on an item, the "auctioneer" automatically reminds the three top bidders.

On Monday, April 25, the first set of items closes including a hardbound UNIVAC I manual with a module made by the Eckert Mauchly Computer Corporation. On Tuesday, another batch closes with the highest bidder getting a rare Gortex jacket distributed to the Lisa development team, that bears the inscription "thinker, stargazer..." On Wednesday, Apple Computer Vice President and Chief Scientist Larry Tesler's thoroughly autographed copy of a 1970s Mid-peninsula Free University catalog, complete with a drop of General Magic President Marc Porat's blood, can find its way to a new owner. Then, on Thursday, another dozen items close, and the winner may receive an original Intel 4004 chip mask, signed by Ted Hoff, one of the chip's inventors, and suitable to display as art. Finally, Friday, the last 25 items may bring the Internet to a screeching halt if all the "techno-geeks" dial up at the last minute in hot pursuit of the rarities available.

Enterprise Integration Technologies, Palo Alto, California, has developed and donated the software for the Auction. The Auction is implemented using EIT's ServiceMail toolkit. EIT is a contract R&D and commercial consulting practice that develops software and services to help companies do business on the Internet.

For more information, e-mail "auction-info@auction.tcm.org" or call (415)323-1909 or (617)426-2800 x322. For information about EIT, e-mail: "info@eit.com".