

# Video game history




Today, video games make up a \$100 billion global industry, and nearly two-thirds of American homes have household members who play video games regularly. And it's really no wonder: Video games have been around for decades and span the gamut of platforms, from arcade systems, to home consoles, to handheld consoles and mobile devices. They're also often at the forefront of computer technology.



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# The Early Days





Though video games are found today in homes worldwide, they actually got their start in the research labs of scientists.

In 1952, for instance, British professor A.S. Douglas created OXO, also known as noughts and crosses or a tic-tac-toe, as part of his doctoral dissertation at the University of Cambridge. And in 1958, William Higinbotham created Tennis for Two on a large analog computer and connected oscilloscope screen for the annual visitor's day at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, New York.

In 1962, Steve Russell at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology invented Spacewar!, a computer-based space combat video game for the PDP-1 (Programmed Data Processor-1), then a cutting-edge computer mostly found at universities. It was the first video game that could be played on multiple computer installations.

## The video game industry had a few notable milestones in the late 1970s and early 1980s, including:

- ▶ The release of the Space Invaders arcade game in 1978
- ▶ The launch of Activision, the first third-party game developer (which develops software without making consoles or arcade cabinets), in 1979
- ▶ Microsoft's release of its first *Flight Simulator* game



# The video game crash



# Modern Age of Gaming

In 2005 and 2006, Microsoft's Xbox 360, Sony's Playstation 3, and Nintendo's Wii kicked off the modern age of high-definition gaming. Though the Playstation 3—the only system at the time to play Blu-rays—was successful in its own right, Sony, for the first time, faced stiff competition from its rivals.



THANKS!

