
Subject: Re: bootstrap, was What is the oldest computer that could be used today for real work?

Posted by [Charles Richmond](#) on Thu, 30 Sep 2021 14:41:37 GMT

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On 9/29/2021 5:10 PM, John Levine wrote:

> According to Questor <usenet@only.tnx>:

>> Circling back to something on topic: this reminds me of bootstrapping

>> a DEC KI-10. From memory, subject to errors: first you set a code

>> in a switch register that selects which device to use, for example, paper tape,

>> then push another button. That loads into memory and executes a small

>> loader program that reads a bigger bootstrap loader from disk, which in

>> turn loads and starts the operating system (i.e., the monitor in TOPS-10

>> parlance).

>

> Sounds like S/360. You set the device number of the IPL (initial program load)

> device in the switches and pressed the IPL button. That ran a fixed one instruction

> channel program pretending to be at location 0, that read 24 bytes into 0-23, then

> executed whatever was read into location 8, typically another read command to read

> a disk or tape block with real bootstrap, then started the computer by restoring the status word at

> location 0 which runs the bootstrap just read in to start up the computer.

>

If it's like the IBM IPL I know... sit down and be prepared to wait a-while. Where I went to uni, the IBM 370/155 took about 20 minutes to IPL. Something about "waiting for the time-base generator to come up to speed" I think... Power supply voltage levels were involved, and sequencing the power-on of equipment to prevent power surges.

'course that's been a *long* time ago for me!!!

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Charles Richmond

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