



Timeline:
[Show Images](#)

1970	Datapoint 2200
1971	Kenbak-1
1972	HP-9830A
	Micral
1973	Wang 2200
	Scelbi-8H
1974	Mark-8
	MITS Altair 8800
	The Digital Group
1975	SwTPC 6800
	Sphere
	IMSAI 8080
	IBM 5100
	MOS KIM-1
	Sol-20
1976	Hewlett-Packard 9825
	PolyMorphic
	Cromemco Z-1
	Apple I
	Rockwell AIM 65
	Compucolor 8001
	ELF, SuperELF
	Wameco QM-1A
	Vector Graphic Vector-1
	RCA COSMAC VIP
	Apple II
1977	Commodore PET
	Radio Shack TRS-80
	Atari VCS (2600)
	NorthStar Horizon
	Heathkit H8
	Intel MCS-85
	Heathkit H11
	Bally Home Library Computer
	Netronics ELF II
	IBM 5110
	VideoBrain Family Computer
	Compucolor II
	Exidy Sorcerer
	Ohio Scientific Superboard II
1978	Synertek SYM-1
	Interact Model One
	Research Machines 380Z
	Magnavox Odyssey 2
	Cybervision 2001
	APF Imagination Machine
	Cromemco System 3
	Z80 Starter Kit
	Findex
	TRS-80 model II
	Bell & Howell
	SwTPC S/09

Linus Write-Top
TRW Write-Top

Model:	Linus 1000
Released:	1987
How many:	~1,500 sold
Price:	\$2,795+
Weight:	9 lbs / 4 kg
CPU:	NEC V20 (8088) @ 7.16MHz
RAM:	640K system memory
Display:	LCD: 80 x 25 text 640 x 200 graphics
Ports:	serial, printer, keyboard
Options:	modem, keyboard, floppy
Storage:	internal 720K 3.5-inch floppy removeable RAM card
OS:	MS-DOS 3.30



1979	Heathkit H89
	Intertec SuperBrain
	Atari 400
	Atari 800
	TI-99/4
	Sharp MZ 80K
	InterSystems DPS-1
1980	HP-85
	Micro Ace
	IBM 5120
	TRS-80 Color Computer
	TRS-80 model III
	TRS-80 Pocket Computer
	NNC 80W
1981	Sinclair ZX80
	Dynabyte 5100
	TFC 3450
	By Fujitsu
	Commodore VIC-20
	Sinclair ZX81
	Apple III
	Xerox 820
	Osborne 1
	Micro-Professor
	TI-99/4A
	IBM System/23
	IBM PC
	LNW-80
	Rockwell AIM 65/40
1982	NEC PC-6001
	BBC Micro
	Timex Sinclair 1000
	Kaypro II
	Otrona Attache
	GRiD Compass 1101
	Victor 9000
	NEC APC
	SAGE II
	DEC Rainbow 100
	Sinclair ZX-Spectrum
	Lobo MAX-80
	Panasonic/Quasar HHC
	Franklin Ace 100
	Franklin Ace 1000
	HP-75C
	Commodore 64
	Commodore B128
	Toshiba T100
	Epson HX-20
	Zorba
	Sord M23P
	Dynalogic Hyperion
	Compaq Portable
	Texas Instruments CC-40
	Jupiter Ace
	Apple Lisa
	TRS-80 model 100
	Kyotronic 85
	Olivetti M-10
	NEC PC-8201a
	Tomy Tutor

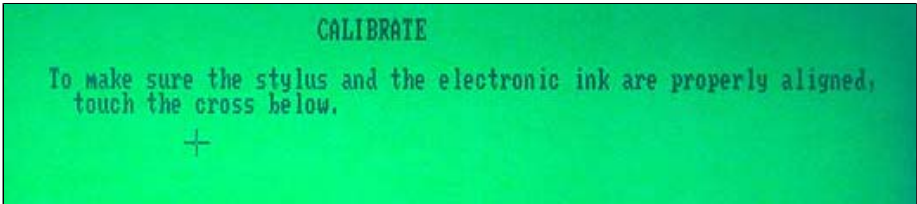


Perhaps the first handwriting-recognition tablet, the **Linus Write-Top** lets you write directly on the screen with the included stylus. It is not a touch screen, it is a "resistive type touch screen in which a voltage is applied to the screen edges, and a stylus detects the voltage at the touched location." This allows for very high resolution and repeatable stylus tracking.

Using an advanced symbol-recognition algorithm, the Linus ("of or about lines") converts your scrawls into perfect text at a rate of about 5 characters per second. It recognizes uppercase, lowercase, numbers, symbols - up to 75 total.



"No relation"



Examples of uses include:

- Health care - doctors or nurses recording on patient charts
- Insurance - entering data on claims or other forms
- Sales - entering orders or using the modem to inquire on order status



1983

- Gavilan SC
- SAGE IV
- Altos 586
- Pied Piper
- Spectravideo CompuMate
- Mattel Aquarius
- Coleco Adam
- Timex Sinclair 1500
- TRS-80 MC-10
- Apple III Plus
- Visual Commuter
- Tandy 2000
- TRS-80 Model 4P
- TI Portable Professional

1984

- Commodore SX-64
- Apple Macintosh
- Sinclair QL
- IBM Portable
- TRS-80 model 200
- Epson PX-8
- Ampro Little Board
- IBM PCjr
- Apple IIc
- Sord IS-11
- HP 110
- Amstrad CPC
- Tano Dragon
- Data General One
- Psion Organiser
- Morrow Pivot
- Sharp PC-5000

1985

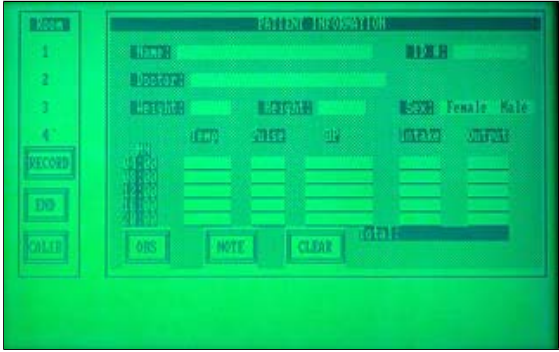
- Atari 520ST
- Franklin Ace 2000
- Franklin Ace 500
- Osborne Vixen
- Osborne 3
- Kaypro 2000
- Amiga 1000
- Zenith Z-171
- Sharp PC-7000
- AT&T UNIX PC
- Toshiba T1100
- Amstrad PCW

1986

- Compaq Portable II
- IBM Convertible
- Apple IIGS

1987

- Zenith eazy PC
- Amiga 500
- Amiga 2000
- DynaMac
- Canon Cat
- Linus Write-Top
- Commodore 128D (USA)
- Compaq Portable III
- Cambridge Z88
- Apple IIc Plus



Download these [software applications](#) (2.4MB file).
Includes: Appraise, Currency Trade, Forms, Just-Write II, Learn, Paint, Practice, Your-Write.

The Write-Top is IBM PC-compatible, with standard serial, printer, external 5 1/4-inch floppy ("D:" drive) ports.
There's also a standard keyboard port so it can be used for word processing or other uses.
The optional internal modem allows transfer of data to remote systems over the telephone line.
An external floppy drive can be attached for local data storage and transfer. The internal 3.5-inch floppy is always available.
A non-volatile battery-backed removeable solid-state RAM card holds up to 512K of data, and is recognized as the "C:" drive by the operating system - MS-DOS 3.30.



1988	NeXT
1989	Atari Portfolio
	Macintosh Portable
	Atari Stacy
	Atari ST Book
	Psion MC-400
1990	Zenith MinisPort
	GRiDPad
	Outbound
1991	Poqet PC
	Atari TT030
	Amiga 3000
1992	Commodore CDTV
	HP 95LX
	NCR-3125
	Psion Series 3
1993	Macintosh PowerBook
	Amiga 600
	Zeos Pocket PC
	Amiga 4000
	Amiga 1200
1994	IBM ThinkPad
	AT&T EO 440
	Amstrad PenPad
	Dauphin DTR-1
1995	Apple Newton
GREEN=Acquired	
RED=Wanted	

Click on the [blue text](#) for more information

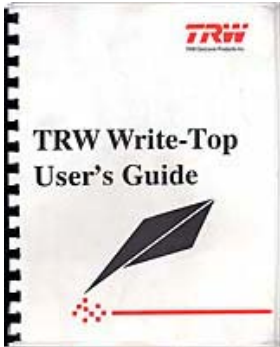


The internal rechargeable battery will supply the entire system with power for approximately 5 hours.
Although the screen is small, 5-by-8 inches, it has an attractive electroluminescent backlight.

The Write-Top cannot read any handwriting at all, until it is first 'trained' to recognize a persons particular script, which is then saved as a 'library'.
Anyone else who wishes to use the system must also train it to read their writing as well, or load a previously made library of their own.



Actually, since you teach it your specific longhand, the Write-Top can even learn and recognize [Klingon](#) and convert it into standard ASCII text.
Unfortunately, the Write-Top was not a commercial success - less than 2000 were ever sold, according to sources.
Just two years later in 1989, GRiD released their [GRiDPad](#), having many of the same features as the Write-Top, but weighing half as much, and displaying twice the screen resolution.



Sometime before 1989, the Write-Top was apparently acquired or licensed by TRW, as this TRW Write-Top User's Guide indicates.

- AKA:
- Linus 1000 and Linus Write-Top, by Linus Technologies
 - TRW Write-Top, by TRW Electronics, Inc. (1989)

Related links from other websites

- [Linus Technologies, Inc.](#) from [blinkenlights](#)
- [The history of PDAs](#) from [Evan Koblentz](#)
- ["The State of the Art in On-Line handwriting recognition"](#) (PDF from 1990)





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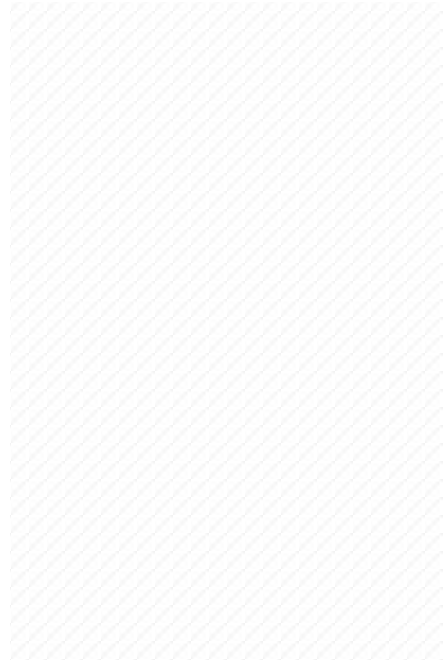
If you're a human, type this word: Sage in here-->>

Comments may be subject to approval by moderator before posted.

1: Name: Jose **Contact:** [Contact info](#) **Location:** **Date:** Mon, Apr 15, 2019 - 11:06 PST
Comments: i used to own a linus

2: Name: Watson **Contact:** [Contact info](#) **Location:** **Date:** Sun, Jul 06, 2014 - 00:56:10 PST
Comments: I used to own a Linus, fascinating, but never found much use for it.

3: Name: Keith E. Cooper **Contact:** [Contact info](#) **Location:** Tampa, FL **Date:** May 25, 2014 - 09:51:25 PST
Comments: I'd like to find a schematic and any manuals for the Write-Top.



4: Name: Mark **Contact:** [Contact info](#) **Location:** NY **Date:** Wed, Apr 10, 2013 - 17:47:07 PST
Comments: I used the Write-Top for the first portable write-on-screen dental charting software in 1989 - the program displayed stylized graphics of the teeth and supporting tissues, and the dental assistant would use the stylus to record dental caries, fractured and missing teeth, etc. After treatment, the dentist could write their clinical notes, draw in restorations, crowns, bridges, etc. Subsequent programs could record examination results for the face, head, and neck. Data could be uploaded to another computer and could be printed off. This was a great device for the time and demonstrated what could be done when the technology matured.

5: Name: VanAllen **Contact:** [Contact info](#) **Location:** NY **Date:** Tue, Mar 19, 2013 20:04:34 PST
Comments: I love that PaintShow Plus! I wonder where they ever got the idea?

6: Name: Summer **Contact:** [Contact info](#) **Location:** Home with the family **Date:** Oct 08, 2012 - 18:35:16 PST
Comments: I cannot believe how computers were back in the day. I mean, its probably the government did not have enough money until now to create the fancier computers.

7: Name: FTZ **Location:** Italy **Date:** Sun, Dec 25, 2011 - 12:07:36 PST
Comments: Wow, this was a really advanced piece of tech in its years!

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