



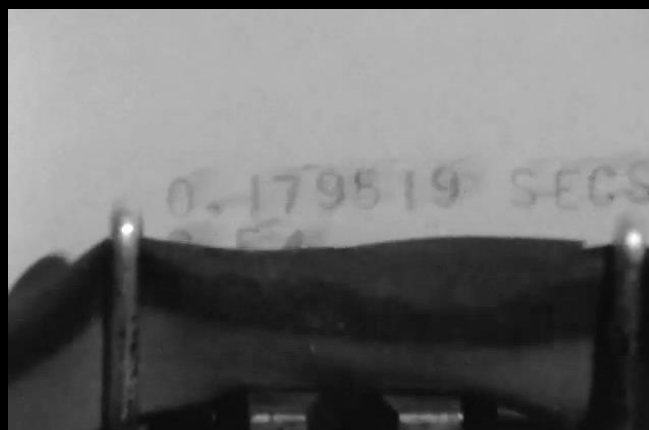
3. Reaction Tester (Forest Grammar School c.1969) National-Elliott 405

In 1965, the students and staff of Forest Grammar School in Winnersh, England were donated enough parts to build their first ever computer, a National-Elliott 405. The 405 was originally designed for accounting and statistics, cost around £200,000 in 1957 and weighed nearly six tons. It wasn't long before the children renamed their one "Nellie" and had it playing games.

Alongside invincible noughts and crosses was a one-button "Reaction Tester", the essence of which predates all games known to humanity. Wait for something to happen (a buzzer to stop) then react as fast as possible (by hitting a switch): Computerised slapsies with your time hammered out on a clattering teleprinter. That was when the machine was working. Nellie broke down roughly once every 12 hours. She broke down for the last time in 1971 and was sold as scrap.



Cause and Effect. PC simulation exists.



BIBLIOGRAPHY and PICTURE CREDITS

3. “Reaction Tester”

Stills via BBC Tomorrow’s World, 5th February 1969: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0154hns>. Extra info from “CCS-E2X1-405-Forest - Issue 4 – 2nd April 2011” at <http://www.ourcomputerheritage.org/E2Extra405.pdf>. and via Vintage ICL Computers: <http://www.vintage-icl-computers.com/icl40>

SEE: [OneSwitch.org.uk/page/100](https://www.oneswitch.org.uk/page/100) for the full story

Special Effect

