

D-47

5th Generation Computers

The 5th generation computer was a project implemented by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (current the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) and in a more limited sense, it refers to parallel inference machines, the biggest achievement of the said project. Under the Institute for New Generation Computer Technology (ICOT), the parent organization, eight companies participated, Hitachi, Ltd. Fujitsu Limited, NEC Corporation, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, Toshiba Corporation, Oki Electric Industry, Matsushita Electric Industrial Company, and Sharp Corporation.

The base calculation model of the 5th generation computer was predictive theory and the programming language was Prolog. The project manufactured/operated systems such as a parallel theory model computer, PIM, parallel logic language, KL1, operating system, PIMOS, and, in addition, constructed/evaluated/validated applications such as parallel database management systems, parallel theorem proving systems, gene information systems, and legal inference systems.

D-48

Family Computers

On July 15, 1983, Nintendo released a home video game machine, family computer. This machine surpassed the conventional type in terms of low price/high performance/repletion. In addition to previous game fans, it became a widespread standard in homes, thereby changing the lifestyles of children and young people, becoming a social phenomenon. One representative software was "Super Mario Bros.", which has created a large market for not only the game machine and software industries but also strategy books and character goods.