

ATLAS

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History of ATLAS

The Atlas computer made its start in Manchester, during the early 1960s. It was the result of a project, which began in the Department of Electrical Engineering of the University of Manchester in 1956. The group was a combination of electronic engineers investigating the new Transistor switching circuits and Magnetic Core Storage devices, with the programmers who were familiar with the problems and aspirations of using earlier Manchester computing machines for scientific calculations. By 1959 Ferranti Ltd. (a major UK electrical engineering and equipment firm) had joined the project and their collaboration with the University led to the development of the ATLAS computer. The Manchester ATLAS began to provide a computer service in 1962. It went on to provide a reliable service for both scientific and commercial users until 1971.

Pioneer in OS concepts

- Timesharing of several concurrent computing and peripheral operations,
- Multiprogramming
- Interleaved stores
- Paging
- V-Store (Image Store)
- Fixed store (ROM)
- Autonomous transfer units.