



## History

### Commodore 64 Timeline

#### 1980

MOS completes development of the 6510 Central Processor and chip set

#### 1981 January

MOS Engineer Albert Charpentier looks for new chip project and starts work on state-of-the-art video architecture

#### 1981 Spring

Charpentier recruited another MOS Engineer, Robert Yannes to assist him in figuring out how far other companies had gone

#### 1981 November

First Silicon is complete

Jack Tramiel kills the "next great video game" concept and tells the engineers to make a home computer

Two days later the basic engineering layout for the 64 is complete

#### 1981 December

5 Prototypes are assembled

#### 1982 January

Operating System software from the VIC-20 is ported to the much more powerful C64 hardware

Commodore announces the Commodore 64 microcomputer at the Winter CES. It features a 6510 processor

Production is approved immediately after the show

#### 1982 Spring

Minor engineering changes occur which will later cause as many problems as they resolve

Production problems, like sourcing odd parts and figuring out how to use metric screws with 'English' nuts.

### **1982 June**

Summer CES Commodore shows the 64 again but this time production is well underway

### **1982 August**

Production is stable enough and large enough to start shipping the 64 to retailers

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### **1983 January**

Commodore shows off the 23 pound "portable" \$995 SX-100 with integrates black and white 5" screen. The price drops \$100 as Commodore starts distributing the machines through mass marketers like Sears.

### **1983 Spring**

Nearly the whole C64 team, Al Charpentier, Robert Yannes, Charles Winterable, David Ziembeicki and

### **1983 April**

Commodore offers \$100 rebate on 64's

### **1983 May**

After many false starts and name changes, Commodore Business Machines ships the Executive 64 with 1MB RAM. This is the worlds first portable colour computer.

### **1983 June**

Commodore drops the dealer price of the 64 all the way down to \$200

### **1984 January**

January 13th - Commodore shows off prototype 264 and 364 at CES and indicates they should be in production.  
January 15th - Commodores founder, visionary and CEO, Jack Tramiel quits Commodore with secret plan to start a new company.  
Commodore shows a Golden Jubilee version of the 64 to commemorate the 1,000,000 C64 to be produced.  
Commodore introduces the SX-64, the worlds first portable colour computer. It comes is a hefty 10.5 kg.

### **1984**

Commodore introduces the Educator 64. A 64 in a Commodore PET 8032 style case.

### **1985 January**

The last Commodore VIC-20 rolls off the line

Commodore shows off the C128 Personal Computer at CES. This new machine has three modes: 64, C

### **1985**

Commodore stops production of the 64 several times (presumably in favour of the much more powerful

### **1986 January**

Germany celebrates its 1,000,000 C64 with a Golden Jubilee version

Berkley Software demonstrates GEOS for the Commodore 64 at Winter CES.

Commodore 128D's hit retail stores in Europe and North America for about \$500

September - Plus/4 was in full liquidation were selling for a mere \$79

### **1986 June**

In an effort to revitalize sales, Commodore releases a sleek new 128 like case, changes the name to 64

The Commodore 1541C is displayed at Summer CES

### **1987 January**

Berkley Software shows off a host of applications for GEOS, including geoCalc, geoFile, and geoDex and

### **1987 December**

Sales of the 'new' 64C 270,000 units.

### **1988 June**

GEOS 2 for the Commodore 64 is shown at Summer CES

### **1990**

CMD Creative Micro Designs releases 3 hard drives for the Commodore 64: 20 MB for \$600, 40 MB for

Commodore 64 Games System is released in Europe

### **1992**

Last Commodore 64 is pushed off the assembly line

### **1994**

Commodore goes bankrupt and the Commodore 65 prototypes and documentation are auctioned off as

**2003 May 15**

Jeri Ellsworth has her 3 year project to develop a 100% C64 compatible machine using modern hardware

Source: [http://www.commodore.ca/products/c64/commodore\\_64.htm](http://www.commodore.ca/products/c64/commodore_64.htm)



## **The original C64 (1982)**

### **The original box**

### **The Commodore 64C**

This was the first portable color computer

### **The Commodore 64C (1986)**

## **Technical Specs**

**CPU** MOS 6502 @ 1.0227 MHz

**RAM** 64KB

**ROM** 8KB Basic, 8KB kernel

**VIDEO** VIC-II 6567 Chip:

Text: 40x25 chars, Graphic: Hires 320x200-1 color, Low-Res 160x200-16 color

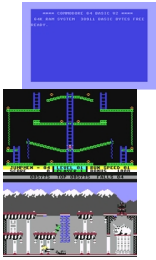
**AUDIO** SID 6581 Chip:

3-Channel programmable Sound Generator (Mono)

**EXTERNAL STORAGE** Tapes, Floppy Discs, Cartridges

(Cartridges are used for memory expansion, programs and game programs)

## Screenshots



□ **Basic Screen**  
**Jumpman Junior (1983)**  
**Bruce Lee (1983)**



**1942 (1986)**  
**Commando (1986)**  
**Barbarian 2 (1988)**

## Emulators

Frodo <http://frodo.cebix.net/>  
[Download](#)

CCS64 <http://www.computerbrains.com/ccs64/>  
[Download](#)