Alan Shugart continues his leadership in the development of storage devices by introducing the Winchester hard drive.

IBM enters the personal computer market in 1981 with the IBM "PC" which was supported by the DOS operating system. CSNET first connects Computer Science Departments using the Internet protocols.

Time Magazine names the computer as the man of the year.

The Department of Defense sponsors a competition to develop a "modern" programming language. The "Green" language was chosen as the winner and renamed "Ada" in honor of Ada Augusta King, Lady Lovelace. The language introduced the rendezvous mechanism for interprocess communication and synchronization. This year also saw the development of the electronic library card catalog.

Apple Computer announces the Macintosh.

Computers are attacked by what the press will come to label "hackers." Initial four NSF supercomputer centers opened; SURAnet begins operations to connect campuses to the supercomputer centers.

The Cray X-MP (4 processors) CM-1 Connection machine (65536 single bit processors) is conceived as a Ph.D. thesis by Danny Hillis.

IEEE Computer Society opens European office in Brussels. First Internet open exchange point established (University of Maryland, College Park).

Amiga Computing, one of the first magazines in the UK aimed solely at the Amiga, is launched.

The concept of virtual reality is the hot topic at SIGGraph's 1989 convention in Boston.