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IWoz: Computer Geek To Cult Icon

The New York Times Bestseller

iWoz

Computer Geek to Cult Icon:
How I invented the personal
computer, co-founded Apple,
and had fun doing it



Steve Wozniak
with Gina Smith



Synopsis

A New York Times Bestseller: "iWoz traces the life and times of a brilliant, gifted...individual whose contributions to the scientific, business and cultural realms are extensive."

Before slim laptops that fit into briefcases, computers looked like strange, alien vending machines. But in "the most staggering burst of technical invention by a single person in high-tech history" (BusinessWeek) Steve Wozniak invented the first true personal computer. Wozniak teamed up with Steve Jobs, and Apple Computer was born, igniting the computer revolution and transforming the world. In iWoz the mischievous genius with the low profile treats readers to a rollicking, no-holds-barred account of his life—for once, in the voice of the wizard himself.

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Customer Reviews

This is a really fun, fascinating, and very informative book. You will learn many things by reading this book. You will learn about the history of personal computers. You will also learn a lot about learning. This is a must read for all students. If you are studying engineering, math, and/or computer

science, you will especially like this book. Steve Wozniak had a passion for learning, a natural curiosity and a tireless focus. I found it difficult to put the book down at times. You learn about "the blue machine", "phone phreaking", and some wild ideas like creating a dial-a-joke line. Steve does clear the air about some common misconceptions about Apple's history. You learn a bit more about the Apple II in Apple's history. You learn that some at Apple have not always been given the credit they deserve. Everything from reminding us that Ron Wayne, Steve Jobs, and Steve Wozniak founded Apple, to Steve Wozniak designing the Apple I and Apple II by himself, to the iMac and iPods being designed by Jony Ive. You learn about Steve's interests other than engineering. Pulling pranks, flying planes, setting up and funding US Festivals (music festivals) and teaching the 5th grade. Steve offers advice for anyone who might "see the future". If you are lucky enough to know what the next big thing will be. Steve doesn't see the biggest & greatest ideas coming from a committee or some company. As it was with Steve, he sees someone working tirelessly alone, that will produce the biggest advancements. It is an awesome and very interesting book. One of the best books I have read in awhile!

I loved his story. Most of us who grew up in that era were very aware of what he and Jobs were doing. They were heroes. I hated the conversational style of writing. I suspect it was done to humanize the story, to make it appear as if the reader was having a face-to-face dialogue with Woz as if friends would talk to each other. That's why I gave it four stars instead of five.

I loved it. I grew up in this era, and I owned an Apple][Plus very early in the game and several more souped versions thereafter, so recalling the history was fantastic. Very interesting person and writing style. Great details about his focus on network designs, etc.

I began reading this book as a follow-up to the excellent Steve Jobs biography by Walter Isaacson. What a great book this was! Steve Wozniak was the sole engineer who designed/invented the Apple computer, the first personal computer that worked with a keyboard and TV monitor. If you know anything about Steve Wozniak, you know that he is a down-to-earth and very honest regular guy. The wonderful thing about this book is that this is way the book reads and flows. Therefore, it's a very enjoyable and quick read. Steve tells how his father explained engineering principles to him in such a way that he understood them completely and absorbed the information. This became the foundation of his passion and interest in engineering. "The Woz" explains every step in his quest to design a personal computer, since he couldn't afford to buy one. He always kept redesigning this

computer on paper, trying to utilize as few chips as possible. In between, we hear about his beloved job at Hewlett-Packard, building a "blue box" (device that makes free long distance phone calls), creating a dial-a-joke service, designing a game for Atari, and inventing the first universal remote. This man is brilliant, and Steve Jobs knew it. Wozniak discusses the working atmosphere at Apple, his marriages, owning a movie theater, funding the US Music Festival, his love of being a father and becoming a computer teacher at his kids' school. This is an excellent book told in an honest and informative fashion. In addition, it is the perfect companion to reading the Steve Jobs book.

I've read a lot about the story of Apple but it's nice to hear it from Woz himself. Easy to read and enjoyable.

An interesting look at some Apple history from Wozniak's POV. It is a tad preachy and self-aggrandizing. I'm not a fan of the VERY informal writing style--it's like he's having a conversation with you in person. I'm not sure it works.

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