

Re: Digital vs. Binary Computers

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Assembler/alt.lang.asm/2004-04/0651.html>

From: Beth (*BethStone21_at_hotmail.NOSPICEDHAM.com*)

Date: 04/25/04

Date: Sun, 25 Apr 2004 08:20:40 +0100

Frankie say:

- > *There was a proposal long ago in one of these groups – or maybe fidonet*
- > *– to write a graphical slide rule as a "desktop accessory". I guess they*
- > *figured it would be more accurate than the original Windows calculator,*
- > *as well as more fun. :)*

Heck, rolling dice or spinning a roulette wheel to get your answers is more accurate than the original Windows calculator!! Boot up Win3.x and type it along with me: "2.01 – 2.00 =" ...yes, that's right, Sir Bill, the answer is "0.00" ...and those two zeroes after the decimal point are totally significant because "0" would not be the same answer, right?

Do you know what was really bad about this? Well, other than having a supplied calculator utility that couldn't add up even the simplest "sums" packaged along with your OS...the "bug" was not actually unique to just "Windows Calculator" because it actually stemmed from a serious bug in Microsoft's "C maths library", which was used to create the original "calculator" program..."Windows Calculator" simply made the bug obvious and visible...it was actually happening "behind the scenes" all the time in Microsoft applications using the older C libraries...

And what gets to me is that Intel made a comparatively minor "bug" in the FDIV instruction for the original Pentium and it's all over the newspapers – "Intel computers can't count!" – but where did anyone mention that Microsoft couldn't count, even when writing a "calculator" application? And it poses the same old questions about Microsoft: "How the hell – if we're supposed to believe their 'we test our software very rigorously' claims – did this pass them by without anyone noticing?" ...nah, that's why they "beta" their software...WE are Microsoft's "testing" and "quality assurance" labs...Bill Gates is on record: "Third time's the charm" (implying that no Microsoft software is any good – even by Sir Bill's opinions – until its third version at least...yeah, even to the point of implying that it won't

alt.lang.asm: Re: Digital vs. Binary Computers

even work properly_ until the third incarnation...a deadly accurate prediction, in fact, looking at most Microsoft software...certainly applies to "calculator", for sure ;)...it's a simple idea...rather than pay to have people test the software, release it to the public, then si