A BRIEF HISTORY OF WEARABLE COMPUTING.

Foundations (F): Thinkers, innovations, and experiments that helped pave the way for wearable computers.

Complete Systems (C): Complete wearable computers (general or special purpose)

1268 (F): Earliest recorded mention of eyeglasses

1665 (F): Robert Hooke calls for augmented senses

1762 (F): John Harrison invents the pocket watch

1907 (F): Aviator Alberto Santos-Dumont commissions the creation of the first wristwatch

1945 (F): Vannevar Bush proposes the idea of a "Memex" in his article "As We May Think" [MIT]

1960 (F): Heilig patents a head-mounted stereophonic television display

1960 (F): Manfred Clynes coins the word "Cyborg"

1966 (C): Ed Thorp and Claude Shannon reveal their invention of the first wearable computer, used to predict roulette wheels [MIT]

1966 (F): Sutherland creates first computer-based head-mounted display [MIT]

1967 (F): Bell Helicopter experiments with HMDs with input from servo-controlled cameras [Bell Helicopter]

1967 (C): Hubert Upton invents analogue wearable computer with eyeglass-mounted display to aid lipreading [Bell Helicopter]

1968 (F): Douglas Engelbart demonstrates chording keyboard in NLS (oN Line System) [SRI]

1972 (C): Alan Lewis invents a digital camera-case computer to predict roulette wheels [Cal Tech]

1977 (C): CC Collins develops wearable camera-to-tactile vest for the blind [Smith-Kettlewell]

1977 (C): HP releases the HP 01 algebraic calculator watch [Hewlett-Packard]

1978 (C): Eudaemonic Enterprises invents a digital wearable computer in a shoe to predict roulette wheels [Eudaemonic Enterprises]

1979 (F): Sony introduces the Walkman [Sony]

1980 (F): Upton and Goodman file for patent on LED raster display [Textron, Inc]

1981 (C): Steve Mann designs backpack-mounted computer to control photographic equipment

1983 (C): Taft commercializes toe-operated computers based on Z-80's for counting cards

1984 (F): William Gibson writes Neuromancer

1986 (C): Steve Roberts builds Winnebiko II, a recumbent bicycle with on-board computer and chording keyboard

1987 (F): The movie Terminator is released

1989 (F): Private Eye head-mounted display sold by Reflection Technology [Reflection Tech]

1990 (C): Gerald Maguire and John Ioannidis demonstrate the Student Electronic Notebook, with Private Eye and mobile IP [Columbia]

1990 (F): Olivetti develops an active badge system, using infrared signals to communicate a person's location [Olivetti]

1991 (C): Doug Platt debuts his 286-based "Hip-PC" [Select Tech]

1991 (C): CMU team develops VuMan 1 for viewing and browsing blueprint data [CMU]

1991 (F): Mark Weiser proposes idea of Ubiquitous Computing in Scientific American [Xerox PARC]

1993 (C): Thad Starner starts constantly wearing his computer, based on Doug Platt's design [MIT]

1993 (C): BBN finishes the Pathfinder system, a wearable computer with GPS and radiation detection system [BBN]

1993 (F): Thad Starner writes first version of the Remembrance Agent augmented memory software [MIT]

1993 (F): Feiner, MacIntyre, and Seligmann develop the KARMA augmented reality system [Columbia]

1994 (C): Lamming and Flynn develop "Forget-Me-Not" system, a continuous personal recording system [Xerox EuroPARC]

1994 (C): Edgar Matias debuts a "wrist computer" with half-QWERTY keyboard

1994 (F): DARPA starts Smart Modules Program

1994 (F): Steve Mann starts transmitting images from a head-mounted camera to the Web [MIT]

1996 (F): DARPA sponsors "Wearables in 2005" workshop

1996 (F): Boeing hosts wearables conference in Seattle

1997 (F): Creapôle Ecole de Création and Alex Pentland produce Smart Clothes Fashion Show

1997 (F): CMU, MIT, and Georgia Tech co-host the first IEEE International Symposium on Wearables Computers