

Re: How Were Those Tables Computed?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2005-08/msg05768.html>

- *From:* "Dik T. Winter" <Dik.Winter@xxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 30 Aug 2005 01:00:56 GMT
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In article <43138458.2A4F32E4@xx> Jim Spriggs <jim.sprigs@xx> writes:

> qquito wrote:

>>

>> ... (2) Were the computation done manually by

>> some hard-working mathematicians?

>

> A quick look in the dictionary reveals that, in the mid 17 century,

> "computer" meant "A person who makes calculations; spec. a person

> employed for this in an observatory etc."

A quick look in my environment learns that that was still quite common in the 50s. But they had changed pencil and paper for calculating machines. Somehow I remember a tale where in some institution calculations with a large number of digits were required. They assigned a number of computers (human in this case) to the task where each computer was responsible for a particular range of digits...

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 ◇ *From:* jmorriss@xxxxxxxxxx

- *References:*
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 ◇ *From:* qquito
 - ◆ [**Re: How Were Those Tables Computed?**](#)
 ◇ *From:* Jim Spriggs

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Re: How Were Those Tables Computed?

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