

# Re: base 10 number system

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2007-01/msg00006.html>

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- *From:* Eric Schmidt <[eric41293@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:eric41293@xxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 31 Dec 2006 15:42:35 -0700
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The Ghost In The Machine wrote:

In sci.math, Nick  
<[tulse04-news1@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:tulse04-news1@xxxxxxxxxxxx)>  
wrote  
on Sun, 31 Dec 2006 17:40:41 -0000  
<[ZvqdnRdpg6qDawrYnZ2dnUVZ8s2mnZ2d@xxxxxx](mailto:ZvqdnRdpg6qDawrYnZ2dnUVZ8s2mnZ2d@xxxxxx)>:

"The Ghost In The Machine" <[ewill@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:ewill@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in  
message [news:di2l64-1h1.ln1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:di2l64-1h1.ln1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

In sci.math, Nick  
<[tulse04-news1@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:tulse04-news1@xxxxxxxxxxxx)>  
wrote  
on Sun, 31 Dec 2006 09:53:59 -0000  
<[f6qndndOUp7gnFQrYnZ2dnUVZ8tKsnZ2d@xxxxxx](mailto:f6qndndOUp7gnFQrYnZ2dnUVZ8tKsnZ2d@xxxxxx)>:

"David T. Ashley" <[dta@xxxxxx](mailto:dta@xxxxxx)> wrote  
in message  
[news:LYydnQUocI0qwQrYnZ2dnUVZ\\_uSgnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:LYydnQUocI0qwQrYnZ2dnUVZ_uSgnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

<[bob@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:bob@xxxxxxxxxxxx)>  
wrote in message  
[news:1167543213.802821.253360@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:1167543213.802821.253360@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I was just  
wondering  
why people  
tend to use  
a base 10  
number  
system. I  
can't help  
but wonder

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if it is due  
to us having  
ten fingers.  
Anyone  
have any  
insight into  
this?

It is definitely due to having  
10 fingers.

The reason for base-2 with  
computers is that it is easier  
to build an  
electronic circuit that is  
stable in two states rather  
than in a larger  
number of states.

The original reason for base-2 in computers  
was that this was simply an  
electric circuit either being on or off.

See Logic gates  
<http://www.kpsec.freeuk.com/gates.htm#not>

It's a bit more complicated than that, as some very early  
computers did  
indeed compute using either binary-coded-decimal or  
analog. The former,  
of course, parcels out 4 bits, wasting 6 states; the latter is  
wiring up  
a circuit using various components to model/solve a problem  
and read the  
result using a volt or ammeter.

The results of very early BCD computers might have been  
displayed using  
Nixie tubes. There are also issues such as 1's complement  
versus 2's  
complement and it took a long time for the notion of a  
computer as a  
digital control system (where each bit represents a device to  
be  
switched on and off -- e.g., lights in one's house, traffic  
signals) as  
opposed to either an "electronic brain" or calculating device  
to catch

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on for some reason.

See:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flip-flop\\_\(electronics\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flip-flop_(electronics))

There is nothing there!

That appears to be temporary; I'm having no problems pulling it up here.

When I said there was nothing there, this is what appears when I point to:

"Wikipedia does not have an article with this exact name. Please search for Flip-flop (electronics in Wikipedia to check for alternative titles or spellings.

Start the Flip-flop (electronics article or add a request for it.

Search for "Flip-flop (electronics" in existing articles.

Look for "Flip-flop (electronics" in Wiktionary, our sister dictionary project.

Look for "Flip-flop (electronics" in the Wikimedia Commons, our repository for free images, music, sound, and video.

Look for other pages within Wikipedia that link to this title.

If a page was recently created here, it may not yet be visible because of a delay in updating the database; wait a few minutes and try the purge function.

If a page previously existed at this exact title, check the deletion log and see Why was my page deleted?."

Ah. I think I see your problem; you're confusing ' ' with ' \_ ' apparently. Admittedly, it \*is\* possible that Wiki is a clustered solution but frankly I don't know what the difficulty is in that case.

You could try the escaped form:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flip%2Dflop%5F%28electronics%29>

Going by the generated error text, the actual problem was that the closing parenthesis was not included in the link by the newsreader.

Spaces in Wikipedia links are equivalent to underscores (and the article title displays without the underscores), so there should be no problems in that respect.

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Posted via a free Usenet account from <http://www.teranews.com>

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