

HHC 2013

Richard J. Nelson

In preparation for HHC 2011 I wrote the following. “Each year I look ahead to our ‘annual’ HP Handheld Conference wondering what we will talk about, what we will demonstrate, learn, discover, and who we will meet. I have seen many changes in the HP calculator market place, but recent changes, reflected by the conferences recorded at <http://hhuc.us>, have been so unexpected that it is increasingly difficult to ‘project’ ahead.”

HHC 2013 is just the opposite. We have been “planning” for **Gen5** for so long we have a good idea what to expect. This situation is unique for HHC attendees. The chatter on the forums is humorous to read because they see the HP world from afar. The long time serious HP users attend HHC and they have the closest possible perspective of what is really happening.

For 2009 I wrote an article describing The Future and HP Calculators http://hhuc.us/2009/The_Future.pdf

In terms of the new leading edge HP calculator products that I called generations I classified the 37 years of products (as of four years ago) as follows (I put the information in Table 1 and filled in the now known **Gen5** entry). In the article I had this to say about **Gen5**. “Hopeful ??, Gen5 - 23 years and counting. A new HP generation is much needed.”

Table 1 – HP Calculator Generations

Date	Model	Generation	Remarks
January 1972	HP-35A	History	Made advanced calculations possible for everyone.
January 1974	HP-65A	Gen1	Added programmability, sharing, equalizing.
July 1979	HP-41	Gen2	Added alphanumeric, expandability, interfacing.
August 1982	HP-75/71	Gen3	added numerical accuracy, computer language.
June 1986	HP28⇒50	Gen4	Added symbolic math, more memory, more speed, I/O, less \$.
April 2013	HP Prime	Gen5	Adds Multitouch color screen, super graphing, still RPN, icons

Joseph Horn suggests that one major leap in every generation is an entirely new programming technique. A Prog. Tech. column has been added to Table 1 to make Table 2.

Table 2 – HP Calculator Generations with Programming Techniques

Date	Model	GEN	Prog. Techinque	Remarks
JAN 1972	HP-35A	History	None	Made advanced calculations possible for everyone.
JAN 1974	HP-65A	Gen1	RPN with keycodes	Added programmability, sharing, equalizing.
JUL 1979	HP-41	Gen2	RPN with named cmds	Added alphanumeric, expandability, interfacing.
AUG 1982	HP-75/71	Gen3	BASIC & Forth	added numerical accuracy, computer language.
JUN 1986	HP28⇒50	Gen4	RPL	Added symbolic math, more memory, more speed, I/O, less \$.
APR 2013	HP Prime	Gen5	New, similar to Pascal	Adds Multitouch color screen, super graphing, RPN, icons

In early 2010 I wrote an article at: <http://hhuc.us/2009/The-Wall-and-HP-Calcs-V3.pdf> The last paragraph is quoted here. “Perhaps the desire to contribute and lead has died at the world’s largest technology company. HP needs to think in terms of five year plans and not just the bottom line of the next quarter. Has HP become so big and conservative that it is no longer able to invest in the future of calculators and to innovate? Even with a calculator in every cell phone there still is a need for a convenient-to-use and reasonably-priced quality dedicated calculator. The students of the world need an HP quality calculator.”

HP has now made the investment. With this historical perspective in mind I am confident that HHC 2013 will be exceptionally helpful in getting a jump start with an exceptionally powerful new high end calculator that

truly meets, and even exceeds, the expectations of HP's user community for this next generation calculator. It was worth the wait HP.

All of our normal HHC activities will be included in addition to HP Prime. Regular HHC attendees already have a good idea of the Prime design guidelines because of past HHCs especially HHC 2012 in Nashville.

For the six members of the HHC 2013 Committee I extend an invitation to you all to join in the celebration of **Gen5** at Ft. Collins Colorado September 21 & 22.

X < > Y,

Richard

P.S. Check the website for additional activities to be announced soon.