



Intel microprocessor: a quantum leap forward

Video transcript: clip from *Podfather*, first broadcast on BBC Four on 12 Oct 2009

NARRATOR:

The idea for the microprocessor came from Ted Hoff, an Intel engineer.

Intel was developing a set of chips for a Japanese calculator firm. But Hoff decided that the existing plans were far too complicated.

TED HOFF:

If you look at a calculator and you think about the various parts of it, it would take electronic systems to run the printer, electronic systems to scan the keyboard.

All of this was to be done with special integrated circuits that added to the complexity of the calculator.

NARRATOR:

Hoff proposed building a single master integrated circuit that could be programmed to perform several different functions, not just calculations.

In other words – a computer on a chip.

Images of electrons moving in a microcircuit courtesy of Texas Instruments.