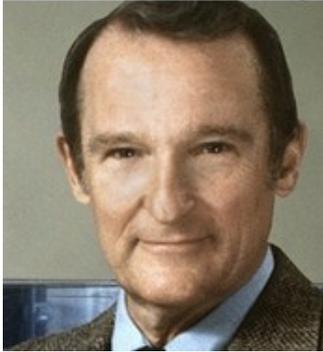


## Seymour R. Cray, (1925-1996)

Known as the father of supercomputing – great inventor and creator



*Seymour Cray had been focused on "things" but appreciated the co-workers. "I wanted the people that I'd worked with most of my lifetime to part of this project because I liked the relationships. I wouldn't have to spend my time working on the human aspects of the relationships involved because they were already established, therefore I could concentrate all my efforts in the technical area. One brings one's friends on these adventures."*

*„DA: There is this connection about the creative relevance for you between always having a blank sheet of paper and starting from that. Can you help us understand that? SC: Well you have to understand that the blank sheet of paper is not a blank mind.” (from interview-may 1995)*

*Jokingly, he would refer to himself as “an overpaid plumber.”*

### Timelines:

- 1950 Seymour Cray graduated from the University of Minnesota
- 1951 He began his career at Engineering Research Associates (ERA) with the opportunity to design his first computer - the 1103 – patented magnetic amplifiers to transistors
- 1957 He founded Control Data Corp. ( CDC 1604, one of the first computers where smaller transistors replaced vacuum tubes, CDC 6600 neon-cooling system **the fastest computer in the world**),
- 1972 He left Control Data (when CDC decided to phase out the development of large-scale scientific computers) and founded Cray Research Inc to build computers with advanced **parallel processing** (Cray-1 vector register technology 240 million ops/sec integrated circuits replaced transistors, 170 megaflops of processing speed , Cray X-MP-1982, Cray Y-MP-1988 2.67 billion ops/sec)
- 1981 He resigned as chairman and became an independent contractor and inventor Cray-2 (gallium arsenic technology, fluorocarbon liquid as a coolant )
- 1989 He founded the CCC-Cray Computer Corp.(chairman, managing director, CEO) that filed for bankruptcy in 1995 as a result of advanced microprocessor technology and smaller demand for supercomputers
- 1996 August – He opened another company SRC Computers where started to design massive **parallel machine** (died 2 months later following an automobile accident).
- 1997 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) created the annual ‘Seymour Cray **Computer Engineering Award**’ in honor of Seymour’s “creative spirit” .

In brief: Seymour Cray - “The father of supercomputing” credited with single-handedly creating and leading the high performance computing industry for decades, dedicated and focused computer engineer, regarded by some as a true maverick and “serial” pioneer.

### based on:

- Encyclopedia Britannica
- <https://americanhistory.si.edu/comphist/cray.htm>
- <https://www.cray.com/company/history/seymour-cray>
- Author's knowledge

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