

Microsoft BASIC "MBASIC"

The first Microsoft product was MITS Altair 8800 BASIC written by 19 year-old Bill Gates and 22 year-old Paul Allen in 1976.

The original version of MS BASIC was sold on papertape format for use with a Teletype Model ASR 33

Microsoft BASIC was the first important commercial software package sold for microcomputers. Up to that point software was given away for free or included with the hardware purchase.

The Altair 8800 computer used a series of toggle switches on the front panel to "bootstrap" the computer for use with a teletype or terminal. Storage was on papertape.

The 1975 Altair 8800 has an Intel 8080 processor running at 2 Mhz and early versions had only 4-16K RAM.

MICRO
SOFT

