History of Computer Memory

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Computer Memory in the 1970’s

- DRAM released in 1970
  - Stores each bit in capacitor
- EEPROM released in 1978
  - Allowed for memory to be remembered
- LaserDisc released in 1978
  - Forerunner to CD and DVD
- Bubble memory released in 1979
  - Used for video games and machine tool controllers
Computer Memory in the 1980’s

- Single in-line memory module (SIMM) gets invented in 1984
  - SIMM contained one or several random access memory (RAM) chips within a small circuit board
- Fujio Masuoka invents flash memory in 1984
  - A non-volatile computer memory

Computer Memory in the 1990’s

- In 1991, SanDisk Corporation (then SunDisk) shipped the first SSD
  - Device that uses integrated circuit assemblies as memory
- Samsung introduces a synchronous DRAM (SDRAM) in 1993
  - A type of memory that synchronizes itself
- DDR SDRAM begins being sold in 1996
  - DDR utilizes both the rising and falling edge of the system clock
- RDRAM becomes available for computers in 1999
  - Rambus Dynamic Random Access Memory offers improved memory access
Computer Memory in the 2000’s

- USB Flash drive released in 2000
  - 8 MB of data at the start
- Cloud-based storage released in 2009
- NVMe released in 2011
  - Mirrors parallelism capabilities of CPU
- DDR4 released in 2014
  - NAND shortage since 2015

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