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When someone mentions computers in the modern day and age, one can't help but talk about something that one of the greatest computer scientists ever, Bill Gates, was a part of. When he first came into the industry, computers were for the wealthy and the intellectual, not the common man. He changed all that, along with changing the entire future of both the industry and the influence of computers on society. As if this wasn't enough, Bill Gates has also held up the capitalist dream and donated a large portion of his person fortune to charity. There may be others players in the history of computer science, but Bill Gates changed the world in ways that have affected hundreds of millions of people.

Although Bill Gates is one of the most famous people in the world, I'd like to recap some of his more remarkable accomplishments; both as a reference point as well as to impress on the reader how much he has accomplished over his life. At the tender young age of 13, Mr. Gates was exploiting bugs in a school terminal in order to gain more time on the computer. At 17, Gates started his own business, which was widely successful, selling traffic counters based on the Intel 8008 processor. From these extraordinary achievements at such a young age, Gates went on to develop an Altair emulator and BASIC interpreter, and sold it to a company known as MITS as Altair BASIC. Gates new company was called Microsoft, and pretty soon it split from MITS and had sold a DOS based operating system to IBM, named MS-DOS. Microsoft Windows was first launched in 1985, and Microsoft has been the biggest seller of operating systems since.

Obviously Gates is one of the most innovative computer scientists of our age; time and time again he used his knowledge of computer science to work his way ahead in the world. However, this paper is more about what he did with his knowledge than how much of it he actually possessed. The first issue that Gates really made a difference in is computer availability. As learningtogive.org says, "Computers were quite expensive during this time period [Gate's childhood] and money had to be raised to lease one system [by his school]". With the development of MS-DOS by Gates and Allen, along with the PC by IBM, there was a standard to base personal computers off of, and mass production became cheaper. With computers quickly becoming more accessible, people both young and old were able to use the power of computers in their everyday life. You can't walk into a business without seeing a computer with some version of Windows on it. Schools and Universities across the globe use this technology developed by Gates to facilitate learning and giving students who don't have access to traditional classrooms a chance to learn. The development of Windows knocked over the first domino, creating a ripple effect and allowing millions of people who wouldn't otherwise have access to this useful software to improve their lives.

As well as, or more correctly as a product of, Bill Gates is ranked as the richest man on the planet, at just under 100 Billion dollars in personal wealth. The moral of this point is more personal, because as a child, who didn't hear the story of Bill Gates and want to be him? The man could buy anything he wanted to. He's inspired a generation of Americans to aspire to something better by being

the stereotypical self-made man. While not necessarily a rags-to-riches story, Gates made his fortune entirely on his intelligence and business smarts. This, like the stories of Rockefeller and Carnegie, is another domino that created a gigantic impact. However, it's what he's done with this fortune that is the most inspiring.

Along with his wife, Melinda, Gates established the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation to fund "Advances in global health issues, learning opportunities for the needy, minority scholarships, and other community driven projects"(learningtogive.org). The man has given over *24 Billion dollars* to the foundation, proving that he believes in what he preaches. This dedication to his ideals, and giving his personal fortune to better the lives of others, is where Bill Gates has created the largest domino effect, in inspiring other wealthy Americans, like Warren Buffet, to give their fortunes to charity.

Bill Gate's philanthropic donations, as well as his inspiring personal story and increased accessibility of computers, have created a domino effect that will be felt for decades after he is gone, by hundreds of millions of people. His commitment to the betterment of the human race, evidenced in everything that he does, is truly inspiring, and the reason he is one of the most influential computer scientists in the history of the world.