Preparing for the Computer Revolution

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Computer pioneer Alan Kay has asserted (most recently in 2007) that "The Computer Revolution Hasn't Happened Yet." That may seem a strange statement to make some 60 years after the surely revolutionary ENIAC, and the subsequent 12+ orders of magnitude increase in computing capability. Kay was referring, however, to what he sees as the yet-unrealized potential for the computer to act as a true intelligence amplifier. In this talk, I examine Kay's vision, asking: Was he right in his assessment? Is this computer revolution imminent? How will we know when it arrives, and how will life be different? How can we accelerate its arrival?