Computer Science E-1: Understanding Computers and the Internet Harvard Extension School Fall 2006

Lecture 3 Jargon Software

Allen, Paul Friend of Bill Gates and co-founder of Microsoft.

Altair 8800 The first commercially successful microcomputer, introduced in 1975 by MITS

and sold as a kit through the magazine Popular Electronics. The device's first

programming language (Altair BASIC) was developed by Microsoft.

Apple Computer, Inc. Led by Steve Jobs, Apple computer helped start the personal computer revolution

in the 1970's and is still a prominent player in the industry today.

Apple II The first (widely distributed) series of personal computers developed by Apple, the

popularity of which was galvanized by the release of VisiCalc.

Ballmer, Steve Friend of Bill Gates and bigwig at Microsoft.

BASIC Beginners All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code. A computer language invented

by John Kemeny at Dartmouth College in the late 1960s.

Bill Gates Perennially at the top of Forbes's richest people list, Gates is the co-founder of

and driving force behind Microsoft.

DOS Disk Operating System. A command-line, interface-driven OS made popular by

Microsoft.

Ed Roberts Founder of Micro Instrumentation and Telemetry Systems (MITS).

IBM PC Released in 1981, the original IBM PC was an effort to jump into the personal

computing market which, at the time, was dominated by Apple.

Jobs, Steve Co-founder of Apple and computing evangelist. Helped spread the popularity of

the personal computer and GUI.

LISA The first personal computer from Apple to sport a GUI, the original LISA cost

\$9,995.

Computer Science E-1: Understanding Computers and the Internet Harvard Extension School Fall 2006

Macintosh The Macintosh (or "Mac") is the generally used name for a series of computers

released by Apple starting in 1984. The original boasted the first commercially

successful GUI.

Microsoft Corporation The infamous company founded by Bill Gates and Paul Allen, among whose most

popular products today are Windows and Office.

MITS Micro Instrumentation and Telemetry Systems, the company that developed the

ALTAIR 8800.

VisiCalc This "killer app" was an early spreadsheet program conceived by Dan Bricklin for

the Apple II.

Windows A family of operating systems developed by Microsoft.

Wozniak, Steve AKA "The Woz" or "Wizard of Woz", friend of Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple,

and developer of early Apple software.