

*John Von Neumann*  
*„the last of the great mathematicians”*



(in

Hungarian: Neumann János Lajos) (December 28, 1903 – February 8, 1957)

<b>Family</b>	<p>Was born in Budapest, Hungary</p> <p><u>Father</u> : Neumann Miksa (lawyer, banker)</p> <p><u>Mother</u> : Kann Margit</p> <p>The family emigrated from Russia to Hungary</p>
<b>Schools</b>	<p>Lutheran Fasori Gimnázium (Budapest)</p> <p>Pázmány Péter University (Ph.D in Maths, Budapest)</p> <p>University of Berlin</p>
<b>Important prizes</b>	<p>Bôcher Memorial Prize</p> <p>Enrico Fermi Award</p>

The oldest of three brothers, von Neumann was born in Budapest, Hungary. His father died in 1929, and in 1930 Neumann, his mother, and his brothers emigrated to the United States. In 1938 John was awarded the Bôcher Memorial Prize for his work in analysis.

He was a Hungarian mathematician who made major contributions in set theory, functional analysis, quantum mechanics, continuous geometry, economics and game theory, **computer science**, numerical analysis, and statistics, as well as many other mathematical fields. He was called "the last of the great mathematicians." He was a pioneer of the application of operator theory to quantum mechanics

While he was consulting on the EDVAC project, he wrote a set of notes, which was titled the First Draft of a Report on the EDVAC. The paper described a computer architecture, where data and program memory are mapped into the same address space. This architecture was contrasted with the Harvard architecture, which has separate program and data memories on a separate bus. This single-memory architecture became known by the name Neumann architecture, as a result of Neumann's paper. With a very few exceptions, all present-day home computers, microcomputers, minicomputers and mainframe computers use this single-memory computer architecture.

Neumann was diagnosed with cancer in 1955, it was possibly caused by the atomic bomb tests. Von Neumann died a year and a half following the initial diagnosis.

Von Neumann wrote 150 published papers in his life; 60 in pure mathematics, 20 in physics, and 60 in applied mathematics. His last work, published in book form as *The Computer and the Brain*, gives an indication of the direction of his interests at the time of his death.

Two pictures about how the old, big computers looked like:

