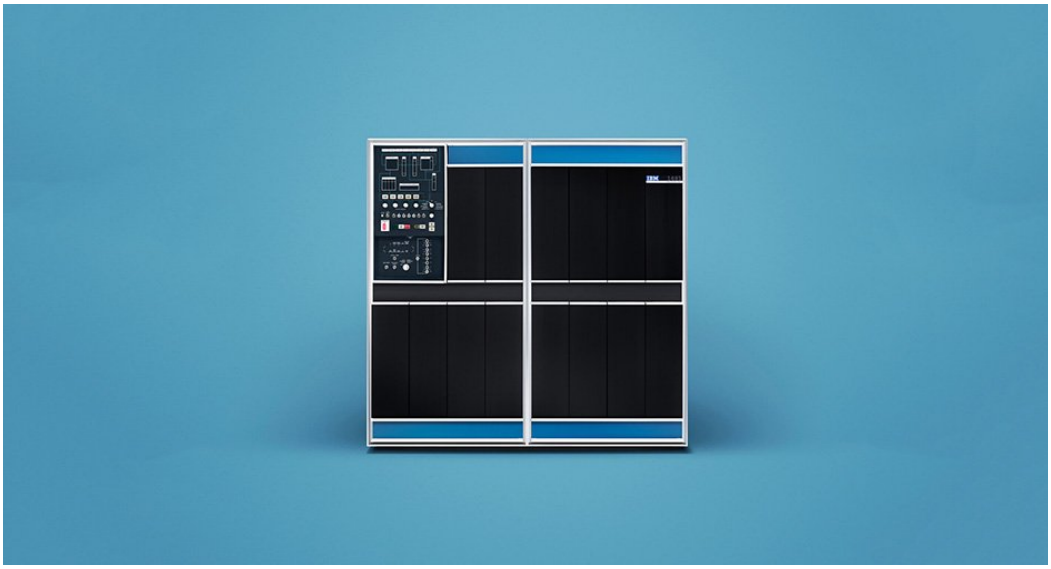
CLASSIC DRIVER

Ever thought of collecting vintage computers instead of classic cars?

Lead
Has collecting classic cars become a little too mainstream for you? You might want to look into a burgeoning phenomenon called retrocomputing…

Much like our cars, we all have a modern computer with which we execute daily duties, but have little or no emotional attachment. The term ‘retrocomputing’ describes the computing equivalent of classic car ownership: technically outdated hardware being used for recreational rather than practical purposes. The growing nature of the market that serves this hobby, driven by sentiment and a sense a nostalgia, means that rare and iconic machines have become extremely valuable, despite being theoretically obsolete. Recently, English photographer James Bell visited the National Museum of Computing in order to capture the progenitors of the digital revolution, treating each stack as if it were a traditional sculpture.



Even if don’t consider yourself the type to become a retrocomputing enthusiast overnight, the burgeoning nature of the market could still be good news. After all, you’re more likely to find an old Apple II in your loft than a classic Ferrari…

Photos: James Ball | Docubyte/INK

Gallery

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