

Brian's Infamous and Fiendish BSCC Christmas and Technology Quiz

8 December 2023



Brian's BSCC Christmas and Technology Quiz



- Questions are either Christmas or Technology related
- To make it easier, at least three possible answers are given for each question – all you have to do is pick the right one
- Possible answers are generally listed in alphabetical order
- There are 20 questions this year
- Warning: hard questions are at the beginning and then gradually get more difficult!

Q1: In the song 'Frosty the Snowman' what made Frosty come to life?

A: A magic snowflake

B: A magic carrot

C: An old hat

Q2: Most people are familiar with the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas." It's about gifts that are sent to a lover during the twelve days from Christmas Day, December 25th, until January 5th. How many different colours are mentioned in this song ?

A: 1

B: 2

C: 3

D: 4

Q3: What colour do you get if you mix together the two colours that appear twice in the Google logo?

A: Green

B: Orange

C: Purple

Q4: One terabyte (TB) is equal to how many megabytes (MB)?

A: 100

B: 1,000

C: 1,000,000

Q5: In the song Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Santa asked Rudolph to guide his sleigh on Christmas Eve. According to the song, what type of weather was it?

A: Foggy

B: Frosty

C: Snowy

Q6: In the USA, adult male turkeys are called gobblers. What are they known as in the UK?

A: Bucks

B: Chiefs

C: Gobblers

D: Stags

Q7: Which of the following would make the strongest password?

A: !"£\$%^&*()_+

B: L!ttl3B0ok#am

C: TheCatSatOnTheMat

Q8: The computer mouse was invented by Douglas Engelbart and was patented on 17 November 1970. It was originally called an X-Y Position Indicator for a Display System. What was it made of?

A: Plastic

B: Porcelain

C: Rubber

D: Titanium

E: Wood

Q9: In "The Wizard Of Oz" what did the sign read on The Emerald City door?

A: Stay Out B: Closed, Come Back Tomorrow C: Bell Out of Order, Please Knock D: No Peddlers



Q10: Where does The Grinch and his dog Max live?

A: The Lonely Mountain

B: Mount Crumpit

C: Mount Whoville

Q11: The term spreadsheet is a literal reference to its original form hundreds of years ago. Back then, a spreadsheet was a ledger book full of huge sheets of paper that would quite literally spread across the table. Rows and columns divided these sheets for manually entering the data. Where is the oldest known example?



A: Egypt

B: Italy

C: Jordan

Q12: Dan Bricklin conceived 'VisiCalc' the first spreadsheet computer program for personal computers. It was originally released for the Apple II in what year?

A: 1971

B: 1975

C: 1979

Q13: In which year was the last time there was a mail delivery on Christmas Day?

A: 1931

B: 1941

C: 1951

D: 1961

Q14: Three of these famous people were born on Christmas, the other died on Christmas Day. Which one died on Christmas day?

A: Charlie Chaplin

B: Humphrey Bogart

C: Sir Isaac Newton

D: Justin Trudeau

Q15: The first webcam was invented in 1991 by two computer scientists working on a project at the University of Cambridge. What was it used for?

A: As a security camera

B: For a remote meeting

C: To monitor a coffee pot

Q16: In Windows 10/11, short cuts such as Ctrl +C for copy are extremely useful. What does the shortcut Ctrl+W do?

A: Closes the current window

B: Expands the current window to the full width of the screen

C: Wakes up your device from Lock or Sleep

Q17: In the original Christmas film 'Home Alone', where are the McCallister family flying to when they accidentally leave their son Kevin behind in their suburban Chicago home?

A: London

B: Los Angeles

C: New York

D: Paris

Q18: How many ghosts visit Ebenezer Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol"?

A: 1

B: 3

C: 4

Q19: Where was Elon Musk, the world's richest man, founder of PayPal, SpaceX, Tesla and owner of X (formerly Twitter), born?

A: Kharkiv, Ukraine B: Pennsylvania, USA C: Pretoria, South Africa D: Toronto, Canada

Q20: Now appearing prophetic, what device was announced in 2007 with the following slogan "This is only the beginning" ?

A: Apple iPhone

B: Garmin GPS SatNav

C: Sony Flat Screen TV



Answers

Q1: In the song 'Frosty the Snowman' what made Frosty come to life?

A: A magic snowflake

B: A magic carrot

C: An old hat

Answer C: An old hat

*Frosty the Snowman, Was a jolly happy soul, With a corn cob pipe and a button nose, And two eyes made out of coal.
Frosty the Snowman, Is a fairytale they say, He was made of snow, but the children know, How he came to life one day.
There must have been some magic, In that old top hat they found, For when they placed it on his head, He began to dance around.*

Q2: Most people are familiar with the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas." It's about gifts that are sent to a lover during the twelve days from Christmas Day, December 25th, until January 5th. How many different colours are mentioned in this song ?

A: 1

B: 2

C: 3

D: 4

Answer A: 1

*On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me:
Twelve drummers drumming, Eleven pipers piping, Ten lords a-leaping, Nine ladies dancing,
Eight maids a-milking, Seven swans a-swimming, Six geese a-laying, Five **gold** rings,
Four calling birds, Three French hens, Two turtledoves and a partridge in a pear tree.*

Q3: What colour do you get if you mix together the two colours that appear twice in the Google logo?

A: Green

B: Orange

C: Purple

Answer C: Purple

Blue and Red both appear twice, mixed together they make purple.



Q4: One terabyte (TB) is equal to how many megabytes (MB)?

A: 100

B: 1,000

C: 1,000,000

Answer C: 1,000,000

One terabyte is equal to 1,000 gigabyte (GB) and 1GB is equal to 1,000 megabyte (MB).

Therefore one terabyte equals 1,000 times 1,000 = 1,000,000 MBs.

Incidentally, one megabyte is equal to 1,000 kilobytes (KB) and 1KB is equal to 1,000 bytes.

Q5: In the song Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Santa asked Rudolph to guide his sleigh on Christmas Eve. According to the song, what type of weather was it?

A: Foggy

B: Frosty

C: Snowy

Answer A: Foggy

Then one foggy Christmas Eve

Santa came to say

"Rudolph, with your nose so bright

Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

Q6: In the USA, adult male turkeys are called gobblers. What are they known as in the UK?

A: Bucks

B: Chiefs

C: Gobblers

D: Stags

Answer D: Stags

Q7: Which of the following would make the strongest password?

A: !"£\$%^&*()_+

B: L!ttl3B0ok#am

C: TheCatSatOnTheMat

Answer C: The Cat Sat on The Mat

!"£\$%^&()_+ is weak because it consists of a combination of characters that are close together on the keyboard (shift 1234567890-= which is the top row of a keyboard) and would only take about 2 hours to crack.*

L!ttl3B0ok#am is medium strength because it contains 3 dictionary words and would take about 9 days to crack.

TheCatSatOnTheMat would take 15 years to crack because even though it does not contain any numbers or symbols it contains 17 characters. Adding a number or a special character could increase the time to 1,800 years.

Q8: The computer mouse was invented by Douglas Engelbart and was patented on 17 November 1970. It was originally called an X-Y Position Indicator for a Display System. What was it made of?

A: Plastic

B: Porcelain

C: Rubber

D: Titanium

E: Wood

Answer E: Wood

It was made of wood, was much larger than today's mouse, rectangular in size, and only had one small button in the top-right corner.



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Q9: In "The Wizard Of Oz" what did the sign read on The Emerald City door?

A: Stay Out B: Closed, Come Back Tomorrow C: Bell Out of Order, Please Knock D: No Peddlers

Answer C: Bell Out of Order, Please Knock



Q10: Where does The Grinch and his dog Max live?

A: The Lonely Mountain

B: Mount Crumpit

C: Mount Whoville

Answer B: Mount Crumpit

The Grinch, a bitter, cave-dwelling creature, lives with his dog, Max, just north of Whoville, atop a high mountain called Mount Crumpit.

The Lonely Mountain is the destination of the Hobbit Bilbo Baggins in The Hobbit and is the scene of the novel's climax.

Q11: The term spreadsheet is a literal reference to its original form hundreds of years ago. Back then, a spreadsheet was a ledger book full of huge sheets of paper that would quite literally spread across the table. Rows and columns divided these sheets for manually entering the data. Where is the oldest known example?



A: Egypt

B: Italy

C: Jordan

Answer A: Egypt

It is on a fragment of papyrus from the Egyptian Red Sea port of Wadi al-Jarf, an outpost established about 4600 years ago by pharaoh Khufu. It is also the oldest surviving writing on papyrus meaning the oldest piece of penmanship in the world is a spreadsheet!

Q12: Dan Bricklin conceived 'VisiCalc' the first spreadsheet computer program for personal computers. It was originally released for the Apple II in what year?

A: 1971

B: 1975

C: 1979

Answer C: 1979

It was considered the 'killer' application for the Apple II turning the microcomputer from a hobby for computer enthusiasts into a serious business tool and then prompting IBM to introduce the IBM PC two years later.

Q13: In which year was the last time there was a mail delivery on Christmas Day?

A: 1931

B: 1941

C: 1951

D: 1961

Answer D: 1961

In order to compensate, the General Post Office (as it then was) made two deliveries on Christmas Eve – a Sunday as Christmas Day 1961 was on a Monday! This year there will no deliveries or collections on Sunday 24, Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 December.

Q14: Three of these famous people were born on Christmas, the other died on Christmas Day. Which one died on Christmas day?

A: Charlie Chaplin

B: Humphrey Bogart

C: Sir Isaac Newton

D: Justin Trudeau

Answer A: Charlie Chaplin

Charlie Chaplin was born in London on 16 April 1889. He died on 25 December 1977 in Manoir de Ban, Switzerland.

Humphrey Bogart was born in 1899 in New York, Sir Isaac Newton in 1642 at Woolsthorpe Manor and Justin Trudeau in 1971 in Ottawa Canada – all on 25 December.

(Sir Isaac Newton's date of birth is sometimes quoted as 4 January 1643 but that is according to the Gregorian Calendar which was adopted in the UK in 1752 when 2 September was followed by 14 September.)

Q15: The first webcam was invented in 1991 by two computer scientists working on a project at the University of Cambridge. What was it used for?

A: As a security camera

B: For a remote meeting

C: To monitor a coffee pot

Answer C: To monitor a coffee pot

Through this webcam, they watched a coffee maker. As a result, the user would not have to make unnecessary trips to an empty pot. One camera was where the coffee pot was whilst the receiving video was set up in the user's workstation.

Q16: In Windows 10/11, short cuts such as Ctrl +C for copy are extremely useful. What does the shortcut Ctrl+W do?

A: Closes the current window

B: Expands the current window to the full width of the screen

C: Wakes up your device from Lock or Sleep

Answer A: Closes the current window.

In browsers such as Edge and Chrome Ctrl + W will close the current tab, if only one tab is open it will close the browser. In Office applications such as Word, it will close the current document (after prompting you to save the document first if appropriate) and if it is the only document open it will close the application.

Q17: In the original Christmas film 'Home Alone', where are the McCallister family flying to when they accidentally leave their son Kevin behind in their suburban Chicago home?

A: London

B: Los Angeles

C: New York

D: Paris

Answer D: Paris

Q18: How many ghosts visit Ebenezer Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol"?

A: 1

B: 3

C: 4

Answer C: 4

The first is Scrooge's former business partner, Jacob Marley, who tells him about the three spirits that will follow.

Q19: Where was Elon Musk, the world's richest man, founder of PayPal, SpaceX, Tesla and owner of X (formerly Twitter), born?

A: Kharkiv, Ukraine B: Pennsylvania, USA C: Pretoria, South Africa D: Toronto, Canada

Answer C: Pretoria, South Africa

Elon Reeve Musk was born on 28 June 1971 in Pretoria, South Africa and briefly attended the University of Pretoria before immigrating to Canada at age 18, acquiring citizenship through his Canadian-born mother. After further education in Canada and the USA he now lives in California and holds South African, Canadian and USA citizenship.

Q20: Now appearing prophetic, what device was announced in 2007 with the following slogan "This is only the beginning" ?

A: Apple iPhone B: Garmin GPS SatNav C: Sony Flat Screen TV

Answer A: Apple iPhone

SatNavs started to gain popularity in the early 2000s after President Bill Clinton ordered the removal of encryption to make it more accurate for civil and commercial users worldwide. Although the first flat screen displays were developed in the 1960s, large flat screen displays did not become available until about 1997 through a joint venture between Sony (who held the LCD patent) and Sharp who were the industry leader in TV production at that time.



Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year