



1931-1979

Christopher Evans

An influential computer scientist, psychologist, and author

Christopher Evans was a computer scientist and psychologist. He advocated a new approach to computing, and conducted research on human-computer interactions and the future of computing. Evans was born in Aberdyfi and schooled at Christ's College, Brecon. After serving in the RAF, he studied Psychology at University College, London, and Physics at Reading University, where he gained his PhD for work on eye movement. On joining the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) in 1963, he applied his technical expertise on human sight and sound to computing.

Under Donald Watts Davies, he set up the NPL's pioneering man/machine interaction unit, and developed novel systems using the newly emerging microcomputers. A particular specialism was conversational systems, such as a patient-interviewing system Mickie that could record medical histories of patients by questions and answers; and a system Mavis that provided new input and output methods to help disabled people use computers. His systems were deployed in hospitals and other relevant units.

Realising the speed of change in computing, for the Science Museum, London, he recorded historically important interviews with many early computing pioneers preserving their views on their own contributions. In 1979, Evans published a best-seller *The Mighty Micro: The Impact of the Computer Revolution* in which he offered a vision in which computing was to become ubiquitous. This became a television series, presented by Evans himself. Christopher Evans died of cancer in 1979, before the series was broadcast on ITV.

Full name: Christopher Riche Evans

Born: 29 May 1931

Hometown: Aberdyfi, Wales

Occupation: Computer scientist, psychologist, and author

Died: 10 October 1979

Best known for: A book *The Mighty Micro: The Impact of the Computer Revolution*



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