



Press release

Embargoed until May 15, 2017 – 1:00 PM

SOS Bolo Museum

Protecting our computing heritage

The Bolo Museum (Musée Bolo) has started a fundraising campaign to help safeguard our computing heritage. With a collection of more than 5,000 computers and video game consoles, thousands of peripherals and accessories, 8,000 software programs and more than 15,000 books and magazines, the collection tells the story of our computing history. In order to preserve this legacy, the museum must raise CHF 200,000 (\$200,000), 40,000 of which is urgently needed before June 30, in order to pay for proper storage. Donations will be accepted via the website go.bolo.ch.

Time is running out to preserve an invaluable part of our computing heritage. Having managed the Bolo Museum since 2007, the foundation “Mémoires Informatiques” is launching a fundraising campaign to raise 200,000 CHF, 40,000 CHF of which must be found before June 30, 2017. This amount will be earmarked to ensure the durability of the collection in an appropriate storage facility. After fifteen years of generously providing a home for the collection, the computer society ELCA will unfortunately no longer be able to cover this expense.

The Bolo Museum is a place to reflect on computing’s importance in the past, present and future of our society. It achieves this goal by showcasing the tens of thousands of objects – some of them one of a kind – that make up its collections. These collections are continuously expanding thanks to numerous donations of objects coming from Switzerland, France, and elsewhere. However, the current storage facilities are unfortunately no longer sufficient to accept them all.

The solution will be the construction of the “Digital Museum” – the future name of the museum – in Lausanne, Switzerland. The École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

(EPFL) has hosted the Bolo Museum since 2002, the year of its creation. Thanks to the hospitality of the School of Computer and Communication Sciences, the museum was able to grow and to gain a following in Switzerland and beyond, with numerous successful exhibitions. The downside to being hosted at EPFL, being a public facility, is the inability to charge any fee to access the exhibits, a valuable potential revenue stream that will be essential to ensuring the future viability of the museum and its collection.

The fundraising campaign is led by the Mémoires Informatiques Foundation and the Association of Friends of the Museum (“aBCM”). The latter, composed of volunteers, will provide most of the many benefits available to donors, the most prestigious of which will be an identical replica of an Apple 1 – the mythical machine invented by Steve Wozniak and Steve Jobs in 1976.

To make a donation

go.bolo.ch – go@bolo.ch

Fondation Mémoires Informatiques

4, ch. des Figes – 1038 Bercher

IBAN CH40 0900 0000 1729 9145 7 CHF

The foundation, in charge of collecting the donations, has been recognised as being of public service. Donations are therefore tax deductible.

Musée Bolo

EPFL – Building INF, level 0

For more information

Yves Bolognini

yves@bolo.ch

078 748 21 16

www.bolo.ch

Pictures

Wikimedia Commons – https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Musée_Bolo

www.bolo.ch/gobolo-photos.zip

Picture name	Photographic credit (mandatory)
musee, pong	Musée Bolo
smaky	Rama & Musée Bolo
apple-i, collection, logitech	Sébastien Monachon - www.bsc8.ch

Donation benefits

Depending on the amount of the donation, you will be entitled to a benefit.

Donation benefit	Amount CHF
A postcard signed by the Bolo Museum team	20
A personalised “vintage” punch card	50
A coffee mug decorated with an Apple I, a Smaky 100, a Commodore 64 or a Cray	100
An official Bolo Museum t-shirt	200
The official book of the exhibition “Programmed Disappearance” signed by the authors and the Bolo Museum team	500
A private visit of the storage facility for our collections, guided by a member of the Bolo Museum staff (maximum of five people)	1,000
A guided tour of the exhibition “Programmed Disappearance”, including live demonstrations of functioning machines (maximum of 20 people)	2,000
VIP access for life to the Bolo Museum and the future Digital Museum, plus an invitation to the inauguration of the new museum	5,000
A temporary private exhibition of five functional machines for 15 days (for companies in French-speaking Switzerland only)	10,000
An identical and functional replica of an Apple I	20,000