Reboot of Musée Bolo
Let's all save the digital heritage together!

Musée Bolo, Museum of Computer Science, Digital Culture and Video Games, is calling for donations. In a situation of great financial difficulty, aggravated by the restrictions linked to the Covid-19 pandemic, Musée Bolo is looking for investors to save its collections. Anyone can now become a VIP and accumulate BoloCoins. Indeed, donors will be rewarded: the foundation which manages the museum aims to distribute 6,502 of these loyalty points by Christmas. The corresponding money 65,020 francs is needed to cover this year's budget. As a software update, this revival is a step into the future, while taking the past into account, thanks to ambitious projects in the field of conservation. Donations are collected on the reboot.museebolo.ch website.

Musée Bolo is in danger of disappearing prematurely! Time is running out to ensure the safeguard of a precious heritage. Mémoires Informatiques foundation, which manages the museum, is launching on 1 November 2020 a new fundraising campaign.

Crowdfunding in 2017 has enabled the museum to evolve. With little funding, the institution has seen its costs increase. Today there is a lack of liquidity. The meagre income no longer covers the expenses of the voluminous deposits. Before being able to bring these devices to life or relive them in front of the public, it is necessary to be able to ensure their storage.

Unique living heritage in Europe

Musée Bolo has one of the most important collections in Europe, but it is in danger. The place is also missing to accommodate the new machines. Entirely run by volunteers, the association Les Amis du Musée Bolo restart the computers and their software.

The permanent exhibition «Programmed Disappearance», on the premises of the Federal Institute of Technology of Lausanne (EPFL) in Ecublens (VD), is only a small part of the collections of Musée Bolo. It is open to the public and is not generates no financial income and lucrative activities have become scarce. The situation has worsened.

Effects of Covid-19: closure and cancellationss

Barely opened on 27 February, the last temporary exhibition was closed to the public. Entitled «#002 Accessible» it described how the hardware and software have evolved to take into account the needs of people with disabilities. Free access and paid guided tours have been banned from the campus of the EPFL. Some of the objects were first exhibited at the time of the Youth Olympic Games 2020 in Lausanne at the Espace Arlaud (Lausanne) in January. Numerik Games and the Night of the Museums of Lausanne and Pully have been cancelled, and projects finally did not see the light of day.

The past is now

As new, latest-generation video game consoles come onto the market, one day, they will be part of our cultural heritage. Even though technologies are changing rapidly, the users are nostalgic. The past is coming back in force, for example with re-issues of games to celebrate the 35 years of the world's most famous plumber.

Digital decoder, with you

From morning to evening, from teleworking to online games, via our smartphones, our daily life is marked by by digital technology. *«Our society and the human condition, under the influence of information technology, have profoundly changed the way we live and work.»* says Robin François, the new president of the Mémoires Informatiques foundation. *«Unfortunately, too few cultural institutions are doing their utmost to ensure that the challanges are understood. Musée Bolo fulfils this role of digital decoder. But our ambitions are limited by our modest means,»* he regrets.

Your computer has a story to tell

The museum is looking for partners who are aware of the challenges of the digital age. By launching counterparties in the form of a BoloCoin, the donors will enable the museum to pursue its projects and collaborations, while participating themselves in museum life.

Everyone will become a VIP and the companies will enhance their image as a privileged sponsor. Everyone can make a contribution, by making a recurring or unique donation on the website reboot.museebolo.ch

Collect BoloCoins

Donors' support and generosity deserve recognition, both when subscribing to a subscription of periodic support or a unique donation. From now on, instead of fixed counterparts, regularity will allow to accumulate BoloCoins. These loyalty points, which can be accumulated and are valid for five years, can be exchanged against a gift, a t-shirt or a VIP invitation for example.

Christmas Gifts

There is an immediate shortfall of almost 15,000 francs (CHF) to pay the 2020 charges. In addition, the financing storage space for the collection, amounting to almost 50,000 francs annually, is neither assured for 2021 nor for the following years. The foundation and the association are therefore looking for 65,020 Swiss francs between now and Christmas. This amount will enable gifts to be distributed to essential donors in the form of 6,502 BoloCoins. 6502, a figure that speaks to specialists*.

The 47'000 francs collected three years ago have now been used up. Waiting for the creation of a new museum looking to the future, the priority is to preserve machines and objects related to computer and their history. *«Before we can show and share our knowledge in new premises, we have need for short-term help to save the collections and pay the charges»*, says Cédric Gaudin, President of the association Les Amis du Musée Bolo.

At least 28'000 pieces to maintain

The museum today consists of at least 15,000 books and magazines, 8,000 software programs, 5,000 computers and consoles of games. Swiss objects have an important place in the collection, such as the famous mice who made the success of the Logitech company. A legacy that needs to be preserved urgently!

Information and online donations
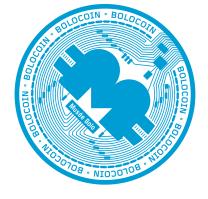
reboot.museebolo.ch

Bank donations

IBAN : CH40 0900 0000 1729 9145 7
Fondation Mémoires Informatiques – 1038 Bercher

The foundation, which is responsible for collecting donations,
is recognised as being in the public interest.
Donations are therefore tax deductible.

Learn more and follow us on social networks !

About us

The first permanent exhibition of its kind in Switzerland, Musée Bolo was founded in 2002 by the collector
Yves Bolognini. Then in 2007 he created the foundation Mémoires Informatiques, whose main vocation is
safeguarding the computer heritage and its history. The foundation establishes the main orientations of the
museum and takes over its management. Alongside it, the association Les Amis du Musée Bolo is responsible for
the preservation and maintenance of the collections and ensures the animation of the museum.

* Référence (6502)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MOS_Technology_6502

6690 signs with practical information and timelinesss

Illustrations attached for free publication, with compulsory copyright notice :
Captions: text in the name of the image [© Musée Bolo].

Appendices : brochure 2020 presenting the museum (PDF) + counterparties

---

Notes to editors and contacts (not for publication)

Robin François
President of fondation Mémoires Informatiques
robin.francois@museebolo.ch
T. +41 78 402 93 85

Cédric Gaudin
President of the association Les Amis du Musée Bolo
cedric.gaudin@museebolo.ch
T. +41 79 423 13 45

This press release of 30.10.2020 is published on :
www.museebolo.ch/informations/presse-medias

Videos to share on our YouTube channel

Video of the campaign : https://youtu.be/WnWiGC7dESw

Interview of the president of the association « Les Amis du Musée Bolo »
https://youtu.be/Dc6fKjmP5gM