Iwoz: From Computer Geek to Cult Icon

Steven Gary Wozniak, better known as Woz, is a legendary figure in the annals of technology. Together with Steve Jobs, he co-founded Apple Computer and set the stage for the personal computer revolution. Woz, renowned for his technical wizardry, is a true pioneer and visionary who has left an enduring mark on the digital landscape. This comprehensive article delves into the remarkable life and journey of Woz, from his humble beginnings as a computer geek to his status as a revered cult icon.

iWoz: Computer Geek to Cult Icon by Steve Wozniak

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
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Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 330 pages

Early Life and Education

Steve Wozniak was born in San Jose, California, on August 11, 1950. His father, Jacob, was an engineer at Lockheed, and his mother, Margaret, was an accountant. Woz showed an early aptitude for electronics and tinkering, often taking apart and rebuilding appliances around the house. His passion for computers blossomed when he discovered the HP-35 scientific calculator, which ignited his interest in programming.

Woz attended the University of California, Berkeley, but left after two years to pursue his entrepreneurial dreams. He became heavily involved in the Homebrew Computer Club, a group of hobbyists and enthusiasts who were instrumental in the early development of personal computers.

The Birth of Apple Computer

In 1976, Woz teamed up with Steve Jobs to create the Apple I computer, one of the first personal computers designed for personal use. The Apple I was a revolutionary device for its time, featuring a simple yet elegant design and an open architecture that allowed users to customize and expand the system.

The Apple II, released in 1977, was an even greater success. It boasted a user-friendly interface, a built-in keyboard, and a color graphics card, making it accessible to a broader audience. The Apple II became one of the best-selling personal computers of all time, cementing Apple's position as a leader in the burgeoning computer industry.

The Wozniak Legacy

Woz played a pivotal role in the development of key Apple products and technologies. He was the mastermind behind the Apple II's revolutionary floppy disk interface, which became the industry standard. He also made significant contributions to the Apple Lisa, the precursor to the Macintosh, and the Apple Macintosh itself.

Beyond Apple, Woz founded several other companies, including CL 9, Wheels of Zeus, and Acquicor. He has been active in education, philanthropy, and advocacy for technology literacy. Woz is known for his

accessible and engaging style, demystifying complex technical concepts for non-technical audiences.

Cult Icon Status

Steve Wozniak has achieved cult icon status among technology enthusiasts and the general public alike. His role in the creation of Apple Computer and his subsequent contributions to the industry have earned him widespread respect and admiration. Woz's humble beginnings and down-to-earth personality have made him relatable to countless individuals who aspire to achieve their own technical dreams.

His approachable demeanor, willingness to share his knowledge, and dedication to education have further cemented his cult icon status. Woz's legacy extends beyond his technical accomplishments, inspiring generations of future innovators and tech enthusiasts.

Awards and Recognition

Steve Wozniak has received numerous awards and accolades throughout his illustrious career, including:

* Presidential Medal of Technology (1985) * National Medal of Technology and Innovation (1991) * IEEE Emanuel R. Piore Award (2000) * Heinz Award for Technology, the Economy, and Employment (2001) * The Franklin Institute's Bower Award for Business Leadership (2008) * The Computer History Museum's Fellow Award (2014)

Steve Wozniak's journey from computer geek to cult icon is a testament to his ingenuity, creativity, and relentless dedication to innovation. His contributions to the personal computer revolution have shaped the digital
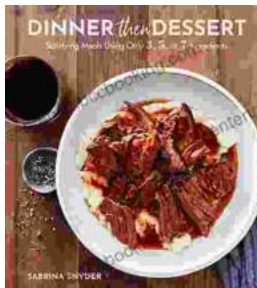
world we live in today. As a brilliant engineer, visionary entrepreneur, and beloved public figure, Woz's legacy continues to inspire and captivate generations of tech enthusiasts worldwide.

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