

# GE-200 series

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The **GE-200 series** was a family of small mainframe computers of the 1960s, built by General Electric. GE marketing called the line *Compatibles/200*.<sup>[1]</sup>

The main machine in the line was the **GE-225**. It used a 20-bit word, of which 13 bits could be used for an address. Along with the basic CPU the system could also include a floating-point unit, or a fixed-point decimal option with three 6-bit decimal digits per word. It had 11 I/O channel controllers, and GE sold a variety of add-ons including disks, printers and other devices. The machines were built using discrete transistors, with a typical machine including about 10,000 transistors and 20,000 diodes. They used core memory, and a standard 8k-word system held 186,000 magnetic cores.

The **GE-215** was a scaled-down version of the GE-225, including only 6 I/O channels and only 4K or 8K of core.

The **GE-235** was a re-implementation of the GE-225 with three times faster memory than the original.<sup>[2]</sup> The GE-235 consisted of several major components and options:

- Central processor
- 400 CPM or 1000 CPM card reader
- 100 CPM card punch or 300 CPM card punch
- Perforated tape subsystem
- Magnetic tape subsystem
- 12 Pocket high-speed document handler
- On-line high speed printer or Off/on-line speed printer
- Disc storage unit
- Auxiliary Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU)
- DATANET data communications equipment

## DTSS

Through the early 1960s GE worked with Dartmouth College on the development of a time-sharing operating system, which would later go on to become Dartmouth Time Sharing System (DTSS). The system was constructed by attaching a number of teletypewriters to a smaller GE machine called the **DATANET-30** (DN-30), which was a small computer that had evolved from an earlier process-control machine.

DTSS actually ran on the DN-30. The DN-30 accepted commands one at a time from the terminals connected to it, and then ran their requested programs on the GE-235. The GE-235 had no idea it was not running in batch mode, and the illusion of multitasking was being maintained externally.

In 1965 GE started packaging the DN-30 and GE-235 systems together as the **GE-265**. The GE-265 achieved fame not only for being the first commercially successful time-sharing system, but it was also the machine on which the BASIC programming language was first created.

## See also

- GE-400 series
- GE-600 series

## References

- ↑ General Electric Computers (1965). *DATANET-30 Programming Reference Manual* (<http://dtss.dartmouth.edu/scans/D-30%20Manuals/D-30manual.pdf>).
  - ↑ *GE-235 Central Processor Reference Manual*. General Electric. March 1964. CPB-374.
- GE-200 Product Line (<http://febcm.club.fr/english/ge200.htm>)

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