A Step Back In Time

Technology reporter, Alpha Perry, digs through the archive to find out about products used in 2010

My assignment was to discover a form of technology from 2010, find out whether it was useful and consider how I would improve it for the year 3000.

Just imagine it, a 1000 years ago people didn't have the Mogo in their homes, they had the Rep Rap.

The Rep Rap was one of the first 3D printers but not as sophisticated as ours.

The old 3D printer was a form of technology that they used when a coat hanger broke and they would just make a new one.

Source: http://builders.reprap.org/
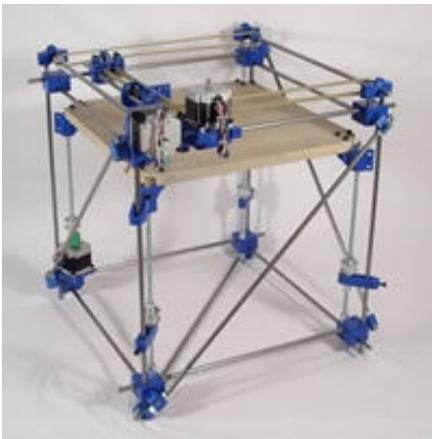
The History

It all started in the Stone Age about 2.5 million years ago, when the very first tools were made. I know it was a long time ago, but we needed tools to make the 3D printer.

Industrial Revolution

Next (jumping forward a long time) in 1760 was the first Industrial Revolution. The Industrial Revolution meant that we could start making things because factories were starting to be made.

Injection Moulding

Then there was the next invention, injection moulding (in 1870). And after that in 1982 CAD solid modelling was built. This meant that you could build solid things like buildings.

Rapid Manufacturing

And finally, as the same year as the second industrial revolution, Rapid Manufacturing was created.

The Rep Rap

Dr Adrian Bowyer: Rep Rap Inventor

I searched through the family archive and I have found that my great, great, great, great, great grandma, also called Alpha Perry, had some contact with him and she asked him this question.

Q: Why did you invent the rep rap?
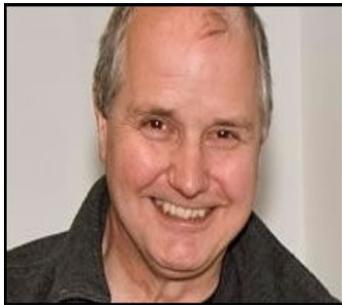
A: Six or seven years ago my lab got a proprietary 3D printer. It revolutionised the way we worked, leading me to the thought, "This is wonderful! Everyone should have access to this..."

I then realised that the way to get it to everyone was to have it print itself, so people with one could make others for their friends.

I further realised that the relationship between the replicating 3D printers and people would be like that between the flowers and the insects: the printers (flowers) would make goods (nectar) to reward the people (insects) who helped them to reproduce.

The result would be an evolutionarily stable mutualism between two replicators - printers and people.

Source: http://www.freesoftwaremagazine.com
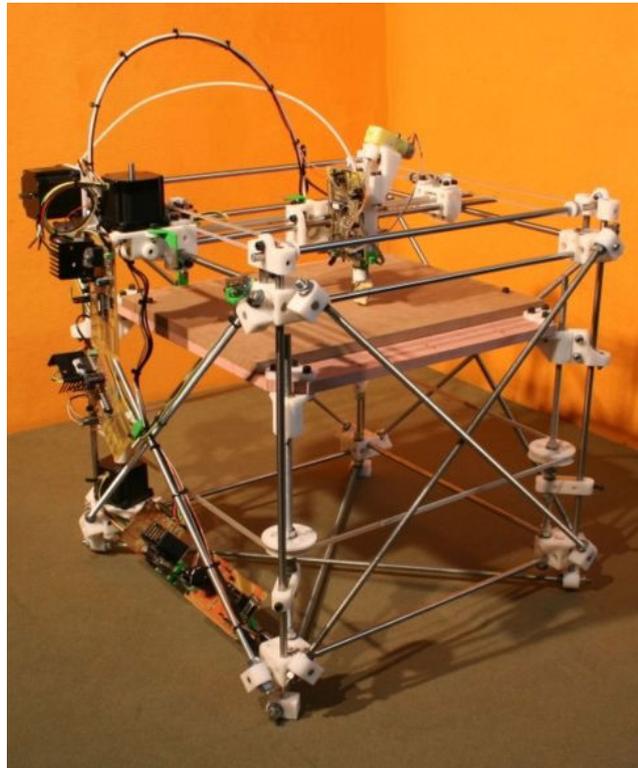
Improvements for 3000

Well, I think the 3D printer is perfect, but there are a few changes that I could make.

Such as that they are only 1 colour that you can print from in the printer and 3 in the high-tech. So maybe you could print in a bigger variety of colours.