

Computer mouse inventor dies at 88

LOS ANGELES, US: Douglas Engelbart, who revolutionised computing by inventing the mouse, died in California on Tuesday at the age of 88, the institute bearing his name said Wednesday.

Born in Oregon, Engelbart studied electrical engineering and computer sciences in the 1950s before joining the Stanford Research Institute.

There, he and his team worked on a number of concepts that have entered the computer mainstream, such as email, video conferencing, hypertext links and ARPAnet, the precursor of the Internet.

However, he is best remembered for the mouse, which in its original incarnation was a wood box with two metal wheels and was granted a patent in 1970.

He had publicly used it two years earlier during a video conference in San Francisco before some 1,000 people, an event that became known as "the mother of all demos."

Engelbart had a total of 21 patents to his name. In 2000 he was presented with the National Medal of Technology, the tech industry's highest honour.

Source: AFP, via I-Net Bridge