What we are reading

Author: Tracy Kidder
Published: 1981

The Soul of a New Machine

Pulitzer Prize for Nonfiction
National Book Award for Nonfiction

The experiences of a computer engineering team racing to design a next-generation computer at a blistering pace under tremendous pressure.

Computers have changed since 1981, when Tracy Kidder indelibly recorded the drama, comedy, and excitement of one company's efforts to bring a new microcomputer to market. What has changed little, however, is computer culture: the feverish pace of the high-tech industry, the mystique of programmers, the go-for-broke approach to business that has caused so many computer companies to win big (or go belly up), and the cult of pursuing mind-bending technological innovations. By tracing computer culture to its roots, by exploring the "soul" of the "machine" that has revolutionized the world, Kidder succeeds as no other writer has done in capturing the essential spirit of the computer age.