Subject: 50 Years Later
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 24 Dec 2024 18:01:56 GMT
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This is an exciting week. If you were into electronics in the 1970s, then you would have been amazed and excited by the issue of "Popular Electronics" that hit the streets 50 years ago this week - the week before Christmas in 1974.

On the cover was the Altair 8800, which most would consider the first commercially available microcomputer.

Popular Electronics January 1975 issue
(Magazine can be downloaded by clicking on the cover image)

If you aren't familiar with this computer, you might be interested in the link below. Or look it up on the internet. Its story is interesting, as are the people that were involved in its creation and expansion.
Altair 8800 write-up on Bella Vista Babelfish
Most Altairs were sold as kits, and believe it or not, you can still get them. They are no longer sold by the original manufacturer - MITS - but there is an active hobbyist community that supports them. So if you're interested in the history of computers, and especially if you want to know more things about hardware - if you want to be "close to the metal" - I encourage you to investigate the Altair 8800.