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Professor Flavin

History of Psychology

Essay 2

Charles Babbage's development of the calculating engine was significant in different ways, one of which being the first recorded development of artificial or simulated human cognitive processes. The calculating engine was able to perform a plethora of functions which included performing mathematical functions and calculations, playing games such as chess and checkers, and so on. This contraption was significant in the way it enabled the start of the development of computers, a technology that is so often utilized in everyday human life. Previously, humans would have to utilize their own mental processes to provide the results the machine would conjure up. Afterwards, it was only through a crank and over eight thousand different working parts that an individual can solve a plethora of problems. It was considered the first fully functional, fully automatic machine developed by humans and it paved the way for the development of more advanced technology.

Ada Lovelace was the seventeen year-old follower of Babbage and one of the few individuals who was truly intrigued by the development of his calculating engine. Although she eventually grew "insane" and developed addictions to drugs such as morphine later in her life, she was able to publish work that explained, in-depth, on how Babbage's machine operated. She explained that such an advanced, artificially intelligent machine can only perform what the programmer allows it to perform. Similar to how an individual can run a set of code and it will

only do what the code is designed to do and nothing less. This in turn helped other individuals understand which in-turned contributed to development of advanced technology.