

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910462151603321
Autore	Abbate Janet
Titolo	Recoding gender : women's changing participation in computing / / Janet Abbate
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Massachusetts : , : MIT Press, , c2012 [Piscataqay, New Jersey] : , : IEEE Xplore, , [2012]
ISBN	1-283-95309-9 0-262-30546-1
Descrizione fisica	1 PDF (x, 247 pages) : illustrations
Collana	History of computing
Disciplina	004.082
Soggetti	Women in computer science Computer industry Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Rediscovering Women's History in Computing -- 1. Breaking Codes and Finding Trajectories: Women at the Dawn of the Digital Age -- 2. Seeking the Perfect Programmer: Gender and Skill in Early Data Processing -- 3. Software Crisis or Identity Crisis? Gender, Labor, and Programming Methods -- 4. Female Entrepreneurs: Reimagining Software as a Business -- 5. Gender in Academic Computing: Alternative Career Paths and Norms -- Appendix: Oral History Interviews Conducted for This Project.
Sommario/riassunto	Today, women earn a relatively low percentage of computer science degrees and hold proportionately few technical computing jobs. Meanwhile, the stereotype of the male "computer geek" seems to be everywhere in popular culture. Few people know that women were a significant presence in the early decades of computing in both the United States and Britain. Indeed, programming in postwar years was considered woman's work (perhaps in contrast to the more manly task of building the computers themselves). In Recoding Gender, Janet Abbate explores the untold history of women in computer science and programming from the Second World War to the late twentieth century. Demonstrating how gender has shaped the culture of computing, she

offers a valuable historical perspective on today's concerns over women's underrepresentation in the field. Abbate describes the experiences of women who worked with the earliest electronic digital computers: Colossus, the wartime codebreaking computer at Bletchley Park outside London, and the American ENIAC, developed to calculate ballistics. She examines postwar methods for recruiting programmers, and the 1960s redefinition of programming as the more masculine "software engineering." She describes the social and business innovations of two early software entrepreneurs, Elsie Shutt and Stephanie Shirley; and she examines the career paths of women in academic computer science. Abbate's account of the bold and creative strategies of women who loved computing work, excelled at it, and forged successful careers will provide inspiration for those working to change gendered computing culture.
