

MEMORIES

SINGAPORE'S HISTORY LOST & FOUND

Celebrating the arrival of the third millennium

FROM 9TH AUG
2999
TO 3RD JAN
3000

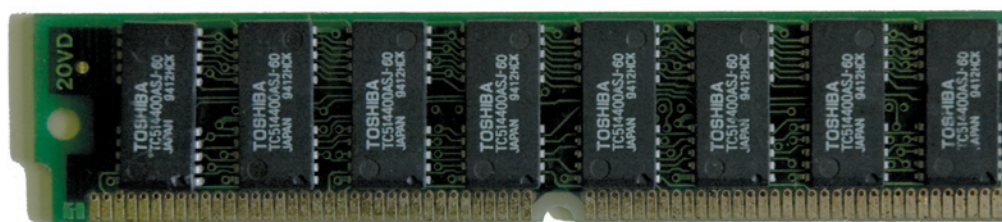
10AM - 9PM

Gallery A,
Singapore
Histories
Museum

FREE!

As part of celebrations to usher in the year 3000, the Singapore Histories Museum is proud to present *Memories: Singapore's History Lost & Found*, an exhibition of artifacts unearthed in this island over the years to showcase its astounding growth since its humble beginnings as Temasek in the 14th century to a bustling metropolis today that is widely regarded as the best place to live in the world.

Our inaccessible memory



Memory (2008)

On display to the public for the very first time is Memory (2008), an artifact traced to the year 2008 that is believed to store important digital files that document Singapore's early history. Unearthed over 30 years ago at an archaeological dig of the area along Sungei Road, this piece of ancient technology known as Random Access Memory (RAM), was a of model that was exclusively used by government computer systems in the early 21st century.

WHERE IT WAS DUG UP

The site where Memory (2008) was dug up is today occupied by Sim Lim Megapolis, a 100-storey IT hub selling the latest gizmos and gadgets. Prior to this, it was Sim Lim Complex, and it was the demolition of this complex as part of an urban renewal masterplan that led to an archaeological dig of this area rich in our history.

Much earlier in history, this site at Sungei Road was a collection of lanes occupied by a motley crew of hawkers in what was popularly known as Thieves Market. The market was famous for defunct IT products such as RAM like Memory (2008). Some of these wares were also of suspicious nature — stolen or scavenged from

dumpyards. Many of the hawkers, usually old folks, also came to peddle items discarded by Singaporeans and it soon became a huge market for nostalgia-stricken citizens who gave up money for a slice of their memories.

In 2030, the market was shut down to make way for a mega IT shopping area that connected the nearby Sim Lim Towers and Sim Lim Square, both IT havens, to a brand new Sim Lim Complex. Not only could the government then regulate the shady dealings of the area, the plan also made cutting-edge technology accessible and affordable to all Singaporeans.

LOCKED UP MEMORIES

When Memory (2008) was first discovered, it caused a flurry because of the potential amount of historical information it contained. Alas, it turned out that existing technology had moved on so far ahead of the times that it was incompatible with the RAM and its digital memories were inaccessible to modern Singapore. Ironically, the most likely market to have sold hardware to read the RAM was the now-forgotten Thieves Market.

[HTTP://SINGAPOREHISTORIES.SG/MEMORIES3000](http://singaporehistories.sg/memories3000)