



1
Seymour Cray in a meeting, ca. 1987
 Cray usually worked alone or with a small team. He wanted to focus on the engineering tasks and remain insulated from company bureaucracy. Several times, when the company encroached too much, he moved his engineering team to a new location.

2
Employees assembling a Cray backplane, ca. 1987
 The wires were all installed by hand and cut to precise lengths to achieve a particular signal delay.

THE FATHER OF SUPERCOMPUTING

"One of my guiding principles" observed Seymour Cray, "is, 'don't do anything that other people are doing.'"

Cray was a brilliant, soft-spoken computer designer who made a career of building the world's fastest computers, time and again. He preferred working in small teams, undisturbed by managers. Or better still, working alone at night, free from interruptions.

Cray's quirky work habits were matched by his unusual diversions, which included digging tunnels near his house and, once, burning a boat he had built because he'd built a new one.