The Digital Group TV Typewriter

As described in The Digital Group "Packet 1", circa 1974

By Bryan K. Blackburn, http://members.cox.net/oldcomp

The TV Typewriter described in the "packet" was arranged as eight lines of thirty-two characters per line. Memory is 256 bytes of seven bits each. This allowed for upper and lower case, as well as some miscellaneous Greek characters that were seldom used for anything but control characters. The inputs were not strobed by hardware, but by software. The software was required to output the character, and then output a blank byte in order to store the data in the TVT memory. There was no cursor, but many software cursor routines were written for it that were indistinguishable from a hardware cursor. The TVT was very fast for the day; the data write speed was mostly limited only by the speed of the 1101 memory chips used, and the speed of the computer connected to the TVT. It was fairly cheap too, selling for $95 in kit form and $125 assembled.