

Old video game in the news...

Yes, that's right the old video game of [Pong](#), OK, actually it was the first video game, [not quite Pong](#).

I'm old enough to remember the first Pong games in the city of Toledo. There was one located in the entry of a K-mart store. At least I think it was a K-Mart. I remember the game, not really the store local. 1 quarter allowed you to play the game. My older brother would let me play it on his cash. Well, he was 12 years older and had a job, I was around 12 when they first came out. I remember those few games with my brother. I looked up to him, and he had time for a jerky little kid.

Fast forward a few years, and there were video arcades, games in bars, and of course home game systems. They all really started because of Pong. If you read the links, you will have found out that Pong was not the first video game. It was the first game to really take the home market. The same game you had to pay a quarter for, you could play for free at home whenever you wanted.

Back in the 80's there was PacMan, Ms PacMan, DigDug, Q*bert, Centipede and many others. These also came to the home market. Soon the home market was bigger than the Arcade business, so much so that you are hard pressed to find any independent arcades anymore. There are some arcades in a few restaurants, or in Family activity centers that deal with things you just can't fit in your home. Me I grew up in the age of the arcade. There was an arcade in almost every mall. There were arcades set out by themselves or in strip malls. Turn a corner and you could find a place to play a video game. I liked these games, and was very good at a few of them.

Then came the home consoles. I never did get the hang of those games. Quirky joy sticks that didn't work quite the same as the arcade. No heavy duty track balls. No big red firing

buttons. Then the games started to use game pads. Tiny buttons that you had to know exactly which one to push and when. Nope, never got into those. At first I said it was because the graphics were so poor on the home games, then of course it was the poor joy sticks. But of course the graphics got better than anything we saw in the arcades, but the interface was still not quite right.

A reader of this blog, and a friend pointed the way to arcade style controls in his [blog](#). It would be interesting to have my own arcade style game, but for me not really needed. I have enough to fill my time right now, I don't need to add an additional hobby. Sounds like fun, if someone wants to invite me to play on their home arcade, well I'd be willing to give it a whirl, but I won't be putting in my own. Has to be someone with lots of room though. Those arcade games can take up a bit of space...

Does anyone remember the old Atari game console? What were your favorites? I found a list [here](#). My favorite, was Pong at the arcade machine with my brother...