**Jade Computer Products -  History**

(From www.s100computers.com)

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Don Smith started JADE in 1975. The name came from Joann (Don’s wife) and Don,  Electronics or JADE.  The business was a local retail and mail order firm for electronic components located in Hawthorn CA. He advertized extensively and when the home/hobby microcomputer era started off he advertised extensively in magazines like Byte, InfoWorld etc. The company made a point of participated in all of the early computer trade shows nationwide as well.

In 1979 a guy named John leaper came in and re-vamped things building it to be one of the most popular mail order and retail computer companies of its time. Reflecting the computer focus, he renamed the company to *Jade Computer Products*. As the company grew and sold many S-100 boards from a number of manufacturers they started to contract out the design of their own boards. The were labeled as from *Jade Computer Systems*.  Most were fairly straightforward being similar to other boards at the time but with a price advantage. However their "bus probe" and FDC boards did stand out.

At one point Jade had a number of stores in the Los Angeles area and one up here in Sunnyvale.  The latter survived into the 80's selling PC clone components.

Apparently a number of people at Jade got their early training there and went on to  to setup their own retail companies. People like Heath Kline - ([Priority One Computers](http://www.priorityonecomputers.com/)),  Ray Chapman and Jeff Rose ([JDR Electronics](http://www.jdr.com/interact/default.asp)).