

Published on *Tux Machines* (<http://www.tuxmachines.org>)

[Home](#) > [content](#) > The code that took America to the moon was just published to GitHub, and it's like a 1960s time capsule

The code that took America to the moon was just published to GitHub, and it's like a 1960s time capsule

By *Roy Schestowitz*

Created *10/07/2016 - 4:18pm*

Submitted by Roy Schestowitz on Sunday 10th of July 2016 04:18:34 PM Filed under [OSS](#) [1] [Sci/Tech](#) [2]



When programmers at the MIT Instrumentation Laboratory set out to develop the flight software for the Apollo 11 space program in the mid-1960s, the necessary technology did not exist. They had to invent it.

They came up with a new way to store computer programs, called "rope memory," and created a special version of the assembly programming language. Assembly itself is obscure to many of today's programmers; it's very difficult to read, intended to be easily understood by computers, not humans. For the Apollo Guidance Computer (AGC), MIT programmers wrote thousands of lines of that esoteric code.

[3]

[OSS Sci/Tech](#)

Source URL: <http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/91225>

Links:

[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/72>

[2] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/75>

[3] <http://qz.com/726338/the-code-that-took-america-to-the-moon-was-just-published-to-github-and-its-like-a-1960s-time-capsule/>