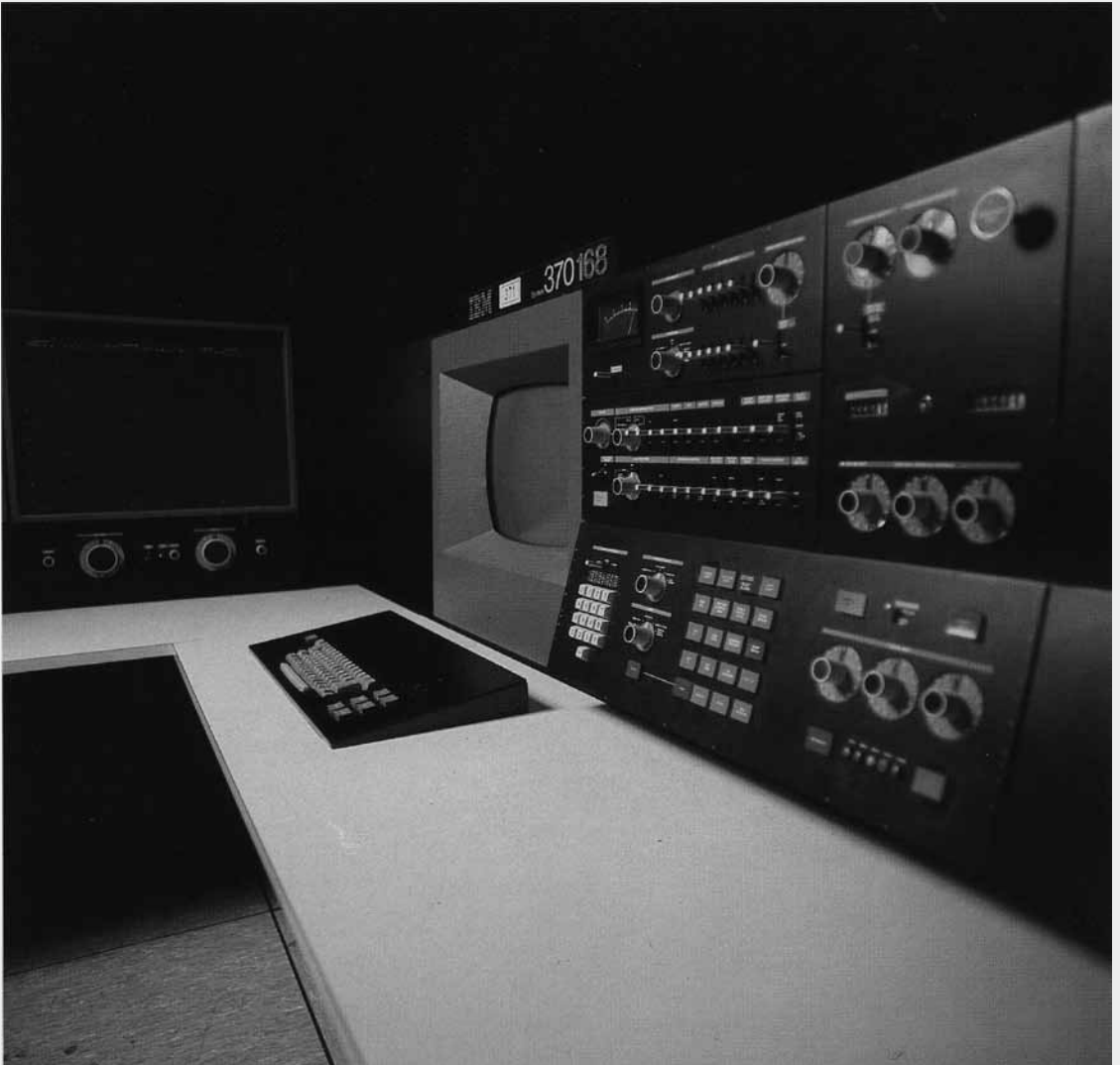


A CRISIS FULL OF COMPUTERS



I'm not the first to ask the question: what part did computers play in this crisis? The answer: a huge one. The financial transactions that lead to the crisis were so complex that humans were unable to handle them: supercomputers did most of the work. To say that the job wasn't that well done is, quite frankly, an understatement. Banks started using computers in the eighties: the model in the picture is from this period. The model was the pride and joy of the Algemene Spaar- en Lijfrentekas (ASLK) - a Belgian Bank that was taken over by Fortis in the 90's - the bank that infamously lost a staggering 20 billion euros.

*Anonymous picture from the book: Een wereld vol computers (A world full of computers), 1985.
Publisher: Algemene Spaar- en Lijfrentekas - Uitgeverij Meddens.*