

John von Neumann

Quotes

*Thinking, Science, May, Numbers, Math, Ifs, Mathematics, Machines, Simple,
Talking, Space, Believe, Knows, Understanding, People, Men, Waiting, Truth Is,
Meteorology, Responsible*

If people do not believe that mathematics is simple, it is only because they do not realize how complicated life is.

~John von Neumann

You insist that there is something a machine cannot do. If you tell me precisely what it is a machine cannot do, then I can always make a machine which will do just that.

~John von Neumann

Young man, in mathematics you don't understand things. You just get used to them.

~John von Neumann

Computers are like humans - they do everything except think.

~John von Neumann

Truth is much too complicated to allow anything but approximations.

~John von Neumann

There's no sense in being precise when you don't even know what you're talking about.

~John von Neumann

Anyone who attempts to generate random numbers by deterministic means is, of course, living in a state of sin.

~John von Neumann

With four parameters I can fit an elephant, and with five I can make him wiggle his trunk.

~John von Neumann

All stable processes we shall predict. All unstable processes we shall control.

~John von Neumann

There probably is a God. Many things are easier to explain if there is than if there isn't.

~John von Neumann

When we talk mathematics, we may be discussing a secondary language built on the primary language of the nervous system.

~John von Neumann

Problems are often stated in vague terms... because it is quite uncertain what the problems really are.

~John von Neumann

I am thinking about something much more important than bombs. I am thinking about computers.

~John von Neumann

You don't have to be responsible for the world that you're in.

~John von Neumann

I would like to make a confession which may seem immoral: I do not believe absolutely in Hilbert space any more.

~John von Neumann

It is just as foolish to complain that people are selfish and treacherous as it is to complain that the magnetic field does not increase unless the electric field has a curl. Both are laws of nature.

~John von Neumann

Technological possibilities are irresistible to man. If man can go to the moon, he will. If he can control the climate, he will.

~John von Neumann

There is no point in being precise if you do not even know what you are talking about.

~John von Neumann

If you tell me precisely what it is a machine cannot do, then I can always make a machine which will do just that.

~John von Neumann

You wake me up early in the morning to tell me I am right? Please wait until I am wrong.

~John von Neumann

Life is a process which may be abstracted from other media.

~John von Neumann

If one has really technically penetrated a subject, things that previously seemed in complete contrast, might be purely mathematical transformations of each other.

~John von Neumann

The emphasis on mathematical methods seems to be shifted more towards combinatorics and set theory - and away from the algorithm of differential equations which dominates mathematical physics.

~John von Neumann

Any one who considers arithmetical methods of producing random digits is, of course, in a state of sin.

~John von Neumann

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