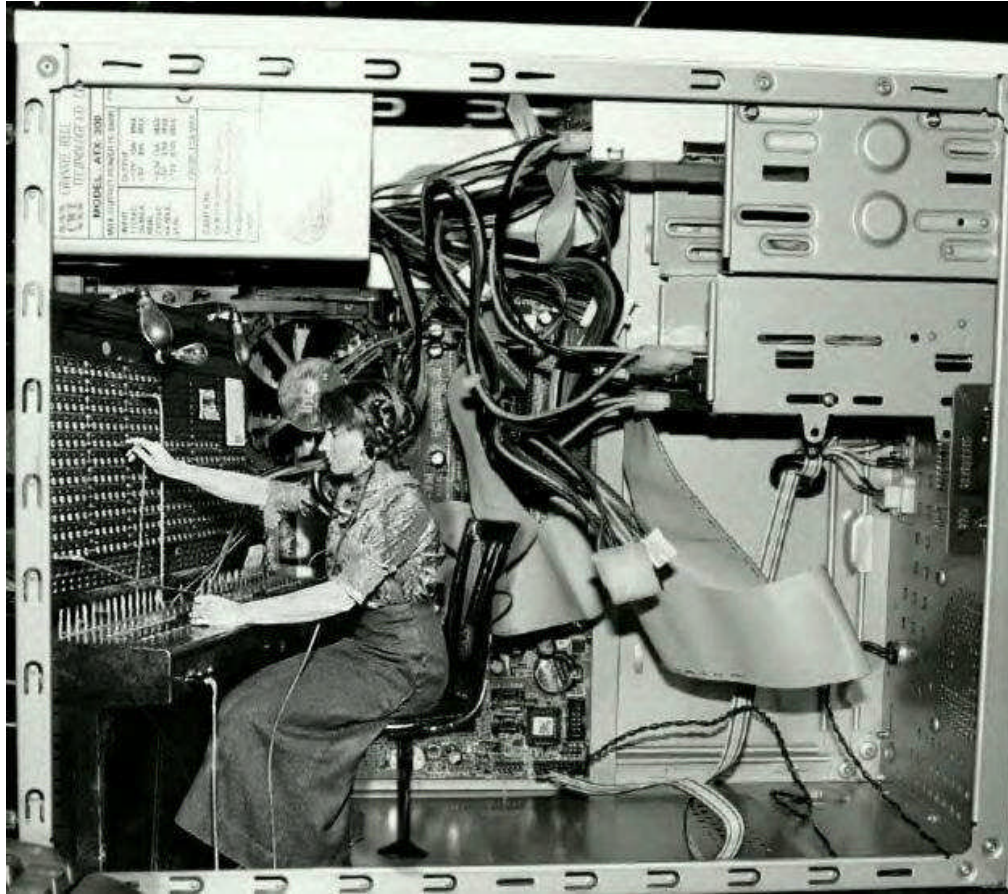


# The Poundometer



For years, the common bathroom scale (*lanx balineum cella*) was the standard measuring device for most home lavatories. It was accurate, easy to operate, portable, and inexpensive. Eventually, however, the avoirdupois cognoscenti demanded more from it. Sure, the scale's calculations were accurate down to an ounce, but *true* precision was measured in micrograms, or even nanograms. Necessity being the mother of invention – or at least the mother-*in-law* of invention – it wasn't long before the Whale Scale Company had introduced the Petersen Poundometer, a state-of-the-art weighing machine. To be sure, it was fantastically accurate – it once measured the mass of a necrophiliac's squalid dream – but it lost something in portability, cost, and especially in ease of operation, as scalemonger Blanche here would be the first to tell you.