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History of Microsoft Excel 1978 – 2013 [Infographic]



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How long have you been using Microsoft Excel?

Have you ever thought how Excel or the other electronic spreadsheet softwares came to exist?

In today's post, we will go back in time to trace the origin of Excel. So, here we go:

While the origin of electronic spreadsheets can

be traced back to 1978, but it wasn't until 1982 when Microsoft jumped into the arena of Electronic spreadsheets with a product known as MultiPlan.

Multiplan was Microsoft's first electronic spreadsheet program. It was introduced in 1982 as a competitor for VisiCalc (the first ever electronic spreadsheet program). The key difference between Multiplan and its competitors was Microsoft's decision to use R1C1 addressing instead of the column-row addressing which was introduced by VisiCalc.

Multiplan was very popular on CP/M systems, but on MS-DOS systems it lost fame to Lotus 1-2-3. This thing motivated Microsoft to develop another spreadsheet product Excel. The first ver

Excel was released in 1985 for Mac. Later in November 1987, the first Windows version was released.


It all started with VisiCalc:

In 1978, Harvard Business School student Dan Bricklin developed a program called VisiCalc, a relatively small program with few basic capabilities. It could only calculate data within a maximum of 256 columns by 20 rows.

To make VisiCalc more powerful, Bricklin hired Bob Frankston, who is also known as the co-creator of VisiCalc. Frankston made the program fast and with better arithmetic. VisiCalc was an immediate success and the duo were able to sell around 1 million copies of the program.


Note: You can still download an original copy of Visicalc from Dan Bricklin's website:

<http://www.bricklin.com/history/vcexecutable.htm> [size: 27 K]



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The advertisement features a central image of a laptop displaying a dashboard with various charts and maps. Surrounding the laptop are logos for several data integration and analytics services: Twitter, Google, MySQL, SAP, Salesforce, and Eloqua. To the right of the laptop, there is a large blue circular arrow icon pointing to the right.

What followed VisiCalc?

After the phenomenal success of VisiCalc, a team headed by Mitch Kapor in 1983, developed a spreadsheet program called Lotus 1-2-3. Mitch and his team power packed Lotus 1-2-3 with charting, graphing and rudimentary database capabilities along with the basic arithmetic. Lotus 1-2-3 became a new favourite in the industry.

Although, before this in 1982 Microsoft had already launched Multiplan but it was outshined by Lotus 1-2-3. And this thing provoked Microsoft to come up with Microsoft Excel and rest i

The Infographic on History of Microsoft Excel:

This infographic takes a closer look at the history of Excel, circa 1978–2013.

THE HISTORY OF Microsoft Excel



FROM [1978 - 2013]



How Electronic Spreadsheets came to Existence?

In 1978, Harvard Business School student Dan Bricklin (the father of Modern Day Spreadsheets) had to do some analysis task for his case study. To do this he had two alternatives: 1) do it by hand or 2) use a clumsy mainframe program. Bricklin thought there must be a better way.

ITEM	NO.	UNIT	COST
RAKE	4	1	55
TONER	25	4.0000	100.00
SHUFF	200	0.0000	0.00
SUBTOTAL			155.00
9.75% TAX			15.06
TOTAL			170.06

VisiCalc - The First Ever Electronic Spreadsheet

He envisioned "an electronic blackboard and electronic chalk in a classroom".

By the fall of 1978, Bricklin had programmed the first working prototype of his concept which he named VisiCalc. The first version of VisiCalc could manipulate a matrix of five columns and 20 rows. Though it wasn't even close to the modern day spreadsheets but still VisiCalc was an instant success.



A Brief History of Microsoft Excel

1978

VISICALC™

It was the first ever electronic spreadsheet program, originally released for the Apple II. Capabilities include: Basic arithmetic operations,

1980

1982

MULTIPLAN

Multiplan was an early spreadsheet program developed by Microsoft. A fundamental difference between Multiplan and its competitors was Microsoft's decision to use R1C1 addressing instead of the A1 addressing introduced by VisiCalc.

SuperCalc was a spreadsheet application published by Sorcim, it was originally bundled along with WordStar. SuperCalc was notable for being one of the first spreadsheet programs capable of iteratively solving circular references.

1983



Lotus 1-2-3 improvised on all the basics embodied in SuperCalc. Along with being a spreadsheet, it also offered integral charting, graphing and rudimentary database operations.

1985

Microsoft Excel

Excel 1.0 was one of the first spreadsheet programs to use a graphical interface with pull down menus and a point and click capability using a mouse pointing device. The first version was only released for Macintosh.

1987



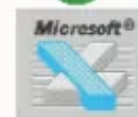
Excel 2.0 was the first Windows version of Excel and was labelled "2" to correspond to the Mac version. This also included a run-time version of Windows.

1990



Excel 3.0 included toolbars, drawing capabilities, outlining, add-in support, 3D charts, and many more new features.

1992



Excel 4.0 was the first popular version of Excel. It had better mouse implementation, more shortcuts, customizable toolbars and introduction of fill handle.

1993

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