Excel Trick

History of Microsoft Excel 1978 – 2013 [Infographi

How long have you been using Microsoft Exce

Have you ever thought how Excel or the othe electronic spreadsheet softwares came to exi

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

While the origin of electronic spreadsheets ca traced back to 1978, but it wasn't until 1982 when Microsoft jumped into the arena of Elec spreadsheets with a product known as MultiPlan.

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

Muliplan was very popular on CP/M systems, but on MS-DOS systems it lost fame to Lotus 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 wa

released.

It all started with VisiCalc:

In 1978, Harvard Business School student Dan Bricklin developed a program called VisiCalc

relatively small program with few basic capabilities. It could only calculate data within a m

columns by 20 rows.

To make VisiCalc more powerful Bricklin hired Bob Frankston, who is also known as the co

of VisiCalc. Frankston made the program fast and with better arithmetic. VisiCalc was an in

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]

What followed VisiCalc?

After the phenomenal success of VisiCalc, a team headed by Mitch Kapor in 1983, develope

spreadsheet program called Lotus 1-2-3. Mitch and his team power packed Lotus 1-2-3 w

charting, graphing and rudimentary database capabilities along with the basic arithmetic. T

Lotus 1-2-3 a new favourite in the industry.

Although, before this in 1982 Microsoft had already launched Muliplan but it was outshine

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.

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.

VisiCalc - The First Ever Electronic SpreadSheet

💡 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

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.

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.

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

MICROSOFT EXCEL

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

Microsoft

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

1992

Microsoft®

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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