

# The Computer Industry

## Year by Year

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# "As Time Goes By"

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DATAMATION is 25!

For a quarter of a century, DATAMATION's pages have reflected the ups and downs of companies, people, techniques, and trends in the most dynamic, changeable industry this world has ever seen.

What our time line represents is a 300-issue trek through the mists of the '50s, memories of the '60s, and miasma of the '70s.

# 1957

- Control Data Corp. is formed by ex-Univac executive William Morris
- Digital Equipment Corp. is founded by MIT's Kenneth Olsen
- Fairchild Semiconductors Corp. is established by Fairchild Camera
- IBM announces that revenues hit \$700 million
- April 20th, first user-written FORTRAN program runs at Westinghouse-Bettis (run 1 is a missing comma diagnostic; run 2 runs!)

# 1958

- Philco creates a new computer division.
- The first NCR computer, the 304, is ordered.
- New products announced include:
  - Stromberg-Carlson 5000: a 4680 lpm printer
  - Calcomp 650 X Y Recorder (drum plotter)
  - Honeywell Datamatic 1000 computer -- 40 tons
  - Dr. William Shockley announces the transistor diode
  - Philco Transac S-2000
  - Texas Instruments develops the first integrated circuit, the TI oscillator

# 1959

- General Electric installs ERMA, demand deposit (checking) accounting system for Bank of America
- Computer Sciences Corp. formed
- International Federation of Information Processing Societies (AFIPS) is formed
- Hitachi, Nippon Electric and Oki Electric unveil computer entries in Japan
- DEC PDP-1
- COBOL in development; LISP in use

# 1960

- Lockheed designs real-time manufacturing system
- International Standards Organization forms Technical Committee 97: Digital Computers and Data Processing Machines
- Royal-McBee installs 400th LGP 30
- UNIVAC III with COBOL
- ALGOL 60 which inspires much theoretical work in programming languages is published

# 1961

- Datamation's market share guesses:
  - IBM 81.2% Remington Rand 6.6% RCA 3.1 %
  - NCR, Burroughs, Philco, CDC, Bendix, Honeywell, Royal-McBee, Packard Bell, Monroe and ALWAC

New Groups: Association of Data Processing Service Organizations (ADAPSO), European Computer Manufacturers Association, American Federation of Information Processing Societies, and Business Equipment Manufacturers Assn.

60,000+ full-time programmers and operators

Bell Labs: first use of a computer to design another computer

# 1962

- Top management shake-ups at: RCA, Philco, RemRand, Bendix, Packard Bell, Ramo Wooldridge and Royal-McBee
- New Companies: Electronic Data Systems, Recognition Equipment Inc., and Boothe Leasing Corporation
- Social Security network links 600 offices
- IEEE: industry's first \$1 billion year
- Over 10,000 CPUs worldwide; 9,337 in US
- Rand does first work on packet switching



# 1963

- American Airlines SABRE system
- CDC buys Bendix Computers Division
- ASCII becomes official standard
- Atlas at Manchester University in the UK communicates over 10,000 miles to Melbourne University in Australia
- Honeywell 200 (Liberator) runs IBM 1401 code
- One thousand school districts and 400 colleges are using DP

# 1964

- Forty-five new machines are announced including the IBM System/360
- RCA announces the Spectra Family of "nearly compatible" computers
- GE acquires Compagnie Machines Bull (French) and Olivetti Computers (Italy)
- Japan moves to number 2 spot with 2000 computers
- DOD's AUTODIN is worlds largest digital data network

# 1965

- "The smart money...is on GE and RCA."
- CDC buys Librascope Division
- New timesharing services abound: ITT, Pillsbury, Keydata, Mednet, Tymshare Associates, and Comshare
- DEC ships 7,000th PDP-8
- NCR ships 1,000th computer
- Between 1965 and 1969, more than 4,000 companies are established in DP, lasers, communications, integrated circuits, and automatic control businesses

# 1966

- United Airlines chooses Univac for advanced \$39 million "everything: system (that will not work)
- TWA chooses Burroughs for its \$25 million version (that won't work either)
- GE's losses put at over \$400 million
- Hewlett-Packard enters the computer business
- First automated credit bureau, Credit Data Corp.
- Federal government reports 2,623 computers in use, 1,967 in the Defense Department

# 1967

- Computer Lessons Association is formed, visits Justice Dept. to complain about IBM
- First software package distributor, Computer Resources Corp. is formed by Robert Head
- Reservation systems proliferate: CSC's Computicket, Ticketron, and Ticket Reservation Systems (only Ticketron survives)
- Fairchild delivers first ROMs (16 X 4 bit)
- IBM delivers trillion bit photo memory to Lawrence Radiation Laboratories