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A History of Microcomputer Spreadsheets

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Abstract

In 1978, the first microcomputer spreadsheet program was developed. Since then spreadsheets have become widely used as productivity software for business and home computer users. Many of today's MIS faculty members use a variety of spreadsheet programs, but the origins and evolution of this product category is of on-going interest to students, managers and MIS faculty. This article is a contemporary history of microcomputer spreadsheets based on primary and secondary sources.

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The background of microcomputer implementation into the federal government and commercial industry and the problems encountered in this implementation are presented. The theory of tutorial development, along with a methodology which uses a layered procedure is discussed and used to develop the tutorial which resulted from this thesis. The tutorial manual is enclosed as Appendix A and the computer program is enclosed as Appendix B. It is recommended that this tutorial be included as a requirement for all PCC students. Additional keywords: computer aided learning; Naval training. (Author). A spreadsheet is a computer application for organization, analysis and storage of data in tabular form. Spreadsheets were developed as computerized analogs of paper accounting worksheets. The program operates on data entered in cells of a table. Each cell may contain either numeric or text data, or the results of formulas that automatically calculate and display a value based on the contents of other cells. A spreadsheet may also refer to one such electronic document. A Brief History of Spreadsheets. A spreadsheet is a computer application that superseded paper worksheets. It displays multiple cells that together make up a grid consisting of rows and columns, each cell containing either alphanumeric text or numeric values. A spreadsheet cell may alternatively contain a formula that defines how the contents of that cell is to be calculated from the contents of any other cell (or combination of cells) each time any cell is updated. Spreadsheets are frequently used for financial information because of their ability to re-calculate the entire sheet automatically. The history of computers began in ancient times. The electronic, digital, programmable computer has only been around since the 1940s, yet it's certainly changed our world in a profound way. These days, computers seem to be in just about everything. Since a computer can be anything that computes, in the early decades of the 1900s computers were often people. Sitting in huge rooms, scores of people worked at identical desks and, using mechanical adding machines and plenty of pencil and paper, computed the specifications for aviation technology during World War Two. Only RUB 220.84/month. Computers in Education - Databases and Spreadsheets - History and Use. STUDY. Flashcards. The spreadsheet is one of the earliest applications of the microcomputer. It was hackers and hobbyists that used it in the early 1970s. Dan Bricklin and Robert Frankston combined efforts to create the first spreadsheet. What was it's name? VisiCalc. BF (Bricklin and Frankston) in 1979. What was the next greatest spreadsheet creator? 1982 - Lotus 1-2-3 (Lotus development) - it became the leading spreadsheet. What is what-if analysis? Used to answer questions such as "What would happen if Elena scored a 90 on this exam instead of a 60?" Uses for the classroom - Students can learn