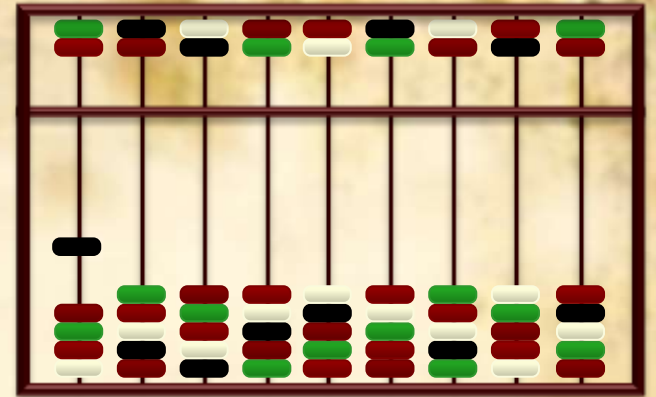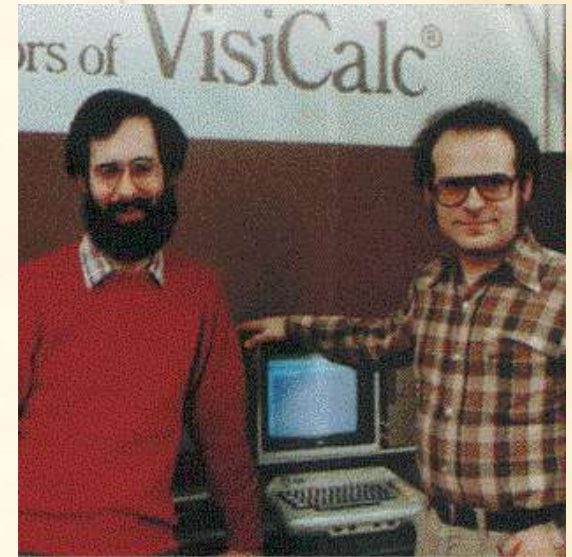# Spreadsheets
A Brief History

Palm Creek Golf and RV

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Spreadsheets have been used by accountants for hundreds of years. Computerized or electronic spreadsheets are of much more recent origin. Information Systems oral history and some published newspaper and magazine stories celebrate Dan Bricklin as the "father" of the electronic spreadsheet. In 1978, Bricklin and Bob Frankston then co-invented or co-created the software program VisiCalc. We can look back and recognize that VisiCalc was the first "killer" application for personal computers.

What's a Spreadsheet?

➢In the realm of accounting jargon a "spread sheet" or spreadsheet was and is a large sheet of paper with columns and rows that organizes data about transactions for a business person to examine. It spreads or shows all of the costs, income, taxes, and other related data on a single sheet of paper for a manager to examine when making a decision.

➢An electronic spreadsheet organizes information into software defined columns and rows. The data can then be "added up" by a formula to give a total or sum. The spreadsheet program summarizes information from many paper sources in one place and presents the information in a format to help a decision maker see the financial "big picture" for the company.

What's a Spreadsheet? – cont'd

➢The market for electronic spreadsheet software was growing rapidly in the early 1980s and VisiCalc stakeholders were slow to respond to the introduction of the IBM PC that used an Intel computer chip. Beginning in September 1983, legal conflicts between VisiCorp and Software Arts distracted the VisiCalc developers, Bricklin and Frankston. During this period, Mitch Kapor developed Lotus and his spreadsheet program quickly became the new industry spreadsheet standard.

➢Lotus 1-2-3 made it easier to use spreadsheets and it added integrated charting, plotting and database capabilities. Lotus 1-2-3 established spreadsheet software as a major data presentation package as well as a complex calculation tool. Lotus was also the first spreadsheet vendor to introduce naming cells, cell ranges and spreadsheet macros. Lotus 1-2-3 is still one of the all-time best selling application software packages in the world.

What's a Spreadsheet? – cont'd

➢The next milestone was the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. Excel was originally written for the 512K Apple Macintosh in 1984-1985. Excel was one of the first spreadsheets to use a graphical interface with pull down menus and a point and click capability using a mouse pointing device. The Excel spreadsheet with a graphical user interface was easier for most people to use than the command line interface of PC-DOS spreadsheet products. Many people bought Apple Macintoshes so that they could use Bill Gates' Excel spreadsheet program.

➢When Microsoft launched the Windows operating system in 1987, Excel was one of the first application products released for it. When Windows finally gained wide acceptance with Version 3.0 in late 1989 Excel was Microsoft's flagship product. For nearly 3 years, Excel remained the only Windows spreadsheet program and it has only received competition from other spreadsheet products since the summer of 1992.

What's a Spreadsheet? – cont'd

What about recent history?

In the late spring of 1995, IBM acquired Lotus Development and Microsoft Excel is still the spreadsheet market leader.

Address	City	State	Zip	Type
2000 Forestdale Blvd	Adamsville	Alabama	35005	Wal-Mart
2643 Hwy 280 W	Alexander City	Alabama	35010	Super Wally
540 W Bypass	Andalusia	Alabama	36420	Wal-Mart
5560 McClelland Blvd	Anniston	Alabama	36206	Wal-Mart
1077 North Pky	Arab	Alabama	35016	Wal-Mart
1011 US Hwy 72 E	Athens	Alabama	35611	Super Wally
US Hwy 11 & AL Hwy 77	Attalla	Alabama	35954	Wal-Mart
1717 S College St	Auburn	Alabama	36830	Super Wally
701 McMeans Ave	Bay Minette	Alabama	36507	Super Wally
750 Academy Dr	Bessemer	Alabama	35020	Super Wally
1189 Huffman Rd	Birmingham	Alabama	35215	Wal-Mart
5291 Hwy 280 S	Birmingham	Alabama	35242	Wal-Mart