California Developments

A Brief History of PowerPoint

Told in its Own Words

Early Daze at Forethought

Aug 1985   First draft of spec for new product called Presenter at Forethought, Inc.

Dec 1985   Coding begins on Presenter for Macintosh (Using a Lisa with two 5 megabyte hard disks connected via the serial port)

Jun 1986   Another developer joins Forethought and doubles the size of the development team

Sep 1986   Forethought moves from Mountain View to Sunnyvale, CA

Birth of a Category

Apr 1987   Presenter, now called PowerPoint 1.0, ships

  – Introduced a new category, desktop presentations, with many innovations

  • Multiple slides in a single file
  • Slide organization with a slide sorter view and a title view (precursor of outline view)
  • Notes pages attached to each slide
  • Handout printing with multiple slides per page
  • Text with outlining styles and full word-processor formatting
  • Graphic shapes with attached text for drawing diagrams and tables
  • Shadows as object features

  – First product to use a hardcover bound book for its manual!

The GBU Appears

Aug 1987   Microsoft acquires Forethought, Inc. and the GBU is created as Microsoft's first business unit

May 1988   PowerPoint 2.0 ships for the Macintosh.

- Word processing features which had been cut from 1.0
  - Find/Replace
  - Spell Checking
- *Color!* The Macintosh II was available.
  - Slide color schemes
    - guide to color selection
    - easier to change colors later
  - Shaded coloring

Sep 1988   The GBU moves to Menlo Park, CA

Windows at Last

May 1990   PowerPoint 2.0 ships for Windows.

- Introduced on the same day Windows 3.0
- The first application designed exclusively for the new platform (To get the 256 color and palette management)
- Introduced Microsoft Graph
- PowerPoint and Graph were the first container and server to implement what soon became the OLE 1.0 embedding protocol

Aug 1991   Microsoft Draw ships for Windows

- An OLE server based on PowerPoint drawing

Core Code Development

Shapes!

May 1992   PowerPoint 3.0 ships for Windows

- Introduced less than a month after Windows 3.1
- The first application designed exclusively for that new platform (TrueType was a saviour)
- Lots of original new features
  - Templates
  - Outline view (okay, this one wasn't original)
  - Great drawing: Freeform tool, Autoshapes (since patented by Dave Parker), flip, rotate, scale, align, picture ungrouping
  - Slide show transitions, builds, sound, and video

Sep 1992   PowerPoint 3.0 ships for Macintosh

- Core code used for the first time. Microsoft Graph available in the Macintosh version

Office Rules

Feb 1994   PowerPoint 4.0 ships for Windows

- PowerPoint joins Word and Excel with the Office look
- Full OLE 2.0 with in-place activation
- Introduced AutoLayouts and the AutoContent wizard

Apr 1994   Office Reorganization changes the GBU to the GPU

Aug 1994   PowerPoint 4.0 ships for Macintosh

Modern Times

Nov 1994   The GPU moves to Cupertino

Aug 1995   PowerPoint 7.0 ships for Windows 95

- A complete rewrite of the product from the ground up in C++
- Full object model with internal VBA programmability
- Great new graphics, textures
- New animation and effects
- Meeting support features

Jul 1995   New Drawing Product Unit spun off to do shared graphics for Office

Project Statistics

Release	Date	Man-months	Developers	All depts
1.0 Mac	Apr 87	34	2	6
2.0 Mac	May 88	26	3	16
2.0 Win	May 90	185 (+Graph)	9	34
3.0 Win	May 92	300	15	60
3.0 Mac	Sep 92	50	15	61
4.0 Win	Feb 94	220	17	68
4.0 Mac	Aug 94	60	6	74
7.0 Win	Aug 95	377	21	75