It all started in...

Computer makers before 1964 manufactured unique computers for specific customers. To revitalize their software applications every time they upgraded to a larger system, and none of their existing customers could scale up without a complete reinvestment in software and peripherals. Companies can run mission-critical applications for the mainframe on a high-secure platform, a significant achievement. Throughout the decade, IBM continues to make milestones.

The history of the mainframe is a story of steady innovation on a firm foundation. Year by year, this compendium captures the history of z/OS® in the making. Here is the life of z/OS as it happened, along with entertaining and nostalgic events that make up our era.

The mainframe grows up in the '60s.

On the forefront of innovation, IBM begins to flex its muscles with the System/360 in June of 1969. The IBM System/360 is a family of compatible mainframe computers that builds on the trailblazing System/360. The System/360 brings together a variety of IBM innovations and experience from decades of small-system development. The first System/360, Model 44, is the first computer fully integrated with built-in monitor logic (memory, processors, and peripheral devices). The System/360 features a new 10-model S series of advanced mainframe processors, scalable to support some of the world’s most powerful mainframes.

1966: A social security landmark. IBM computer processes some 39 million Social Security Administration. Just one year earlier, the U.S. Congress had passed legislation creating Medicare.

1966: Miniskirts debut!

1969: IBM introduces OS/360, the operating system. IBM announces Systems Network Architecture (SNA), the industry's first global networking system.

1970: IBM introduces the System/370

• Joe Frazer wins the heavyweight title.

1971: IBM introduces System/370

• First issue of z/OS HOT TOPICS Newsletter hits the stands.

1972: IBM introduces System/370

• System/370 Model 15 introduces high-speed cache memory, making high priority data available 12 times faster than before. It lays the foundation for the same memory concept used much of the 21st century's computer technology.

1973: Learning to speak

• IBM introduces the first 2-way IBM synchronous multiprocessor (RMP), which can execute up to 15 jobs concurrently.

• Peace, love and rock & roll reign at the Woodstock Festival, August 15-18.

1975: Second System/360, an Information Management System (IMS) 360, and IBM software licenses are the first computerized worldwide on the System/360, hard-wired for the requirements of the space program.

• Man lands on the moon.

The '80s move into high gear.

The 1980s witness the introduction of IBM's Enterprise System/390® Model 6035. It becomes the industry's most powerful general purpose processor, giving customers 56% more processing power and leading a new 10-model S series of advanced mainframe computers. It takes advantage of IBM's Enterprise Systems Architecture™ and Virtual Machine/ Extended Architecture operating systems and data management software. Finally, IBM releases MVS/ESA™ (more data in memory), along with NFS Support, MVS/ESA™ goes on to earn a B1 security rating.

Also in this decade, customers can now use the mainframe to deploy the DB2 database beyond “decision support systems” and into core transaction-processing, driving reductions in CPU costs and dramatic improvements in concurrency. In this period, IBM introduces the logical partition (LP) concept, which makes it possible to logically partition a mainframe into several independent processors that share the same hardware.

1980: The GO-Go's release their hit record. 

1982: IBM introduces the eServer xSeries 860, an entry-level mainframe that combines high performance with an easy-to-use, open architecture.

1985:°IBM introduces System/390

• Increased granularity to help control costs with smaller increments of growth.

• Pioneering technology to dynamically allocate work loads and capacity as needed.

• Advanced application flexibility to provide the ability to simultaneously run up to hundreds of virtual Linux™ servers.

Channel performance has grown from parallel channels to ESCON channels to FICON channels. IBM continues to provide a significantly higher-performance option for channel programming.

IBM continues the evolution of cryptographic hardware processing by extending basic functions and consolidating operations in a single feature. IBM continues to enhance its mainframe offerings with the characteristics that have always been its strengths — and help companies like yours meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

The mainframe evolves in the ‘90s.

The headlines are everywhere. The mainframe is dead. Nevertheless, while the pundits focus on personal computers and speculate about the dire future of the mainframe, and while scientists write prominent articles postulating a “cyberspace,” IBM researchers and engineers continue to build on IBM's strong history of innovation in support of the present and future needs of its customers. They conceive, develop, and move into production several improvements in top of the line IBM systems, giving new life to the mainframe.

1990: IBM introduces the System/390

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• Pioneering technology to dynamically allocate work loads and capacity as needed.

• Advanced application flexibility to provide the ability to simultaneously run up to hundreds of virtual Linux™ servers.

IBM introduces MQSeries™ software.

The number of SSL transactions per second continues to increase at a rate of 200,000 transactions per second—0.5 billion times faster than its predecessor.

1991: IBM introduces the eServer z800, the world’s most powerful mainframe.

1992: IBM introduces System/390

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• Pioneering technology to dynamically allocate work loads and capacity as needed.

• Advanced application flexibility to provide the ability to simultaneously run up to hundreds of virtual Linux™ servers.

IBM introduces the eServer zSeries family. In addition to doubling the number of logical processors, IBM introduces the first time.

IBM introduces eServer zSeries family.

1992: IBM introduces System/390

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IBM introduces eServer zSeries family.

1994: IBM announces System/390

• Parallel Sysplex® offering, encompassing the zSeries Parallel Sysplex® offering, high-speed coupling links and software enhancements. The Parallel Sysplex is designed to provide continuous availability of applications and reduce or eliminate planned application outages. It begins the concept of “true sharing” and data sharing.

1993: IBM introduces eServer zSeries family. In addition to doubling the number of logical processors, IBM introduces the first time.

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