

MILESTONES IN DIGITAL'S HISTORY

- August 1957 -- Digital opens in Maynard, Massachusetts, with three employees and 8,500 square feet of production space in a converted woolen mill.
- February 1958 -- Systems modules go on the market. First fiscal year sales: \$94,000.
- November 1960 -- Introduction of PDP-1, the world's first small, interactive computer.
- June 1962 -- Annual sales reach \$6.5 million.
- March 1963 -- First European sales and service office opens with three people in Munich, Germany. First Canadian sales office opens with two people in Ottawa.
- April 1963 -- The world's first minicomputer, PDP-5, is announced.
- September 1963 -- PDP-1 operating system, the first timesharing system, is introduced.
- March 1964 -- Digital begins manufacturing in a woolen mill at Carleton Place near Ottawa, Canada.
- June 1964 -- Subsidiaries formed in Australia and the United Kingdom.
- July 1964 -- First European Customer Training Center opened in Reading, United Kingdom.

October 1964	-- Digital unveils its first 36-bit computer, PDP-6.
April 1965	-- Introduction of PDP-8, the world's first mass-produced minicomputer.
August 1966	-- Digital makes its first public stock offering.
March 1967	-- PDP-10 is introduced.
June 1967	-- Manufacturing of PDP-8 computers and peripherals is started in a Reading, England, facility.
	-- Annual sales reach \$38 million.
January 1968	-- Digital stock begins trading on the American Stock Exchange.
July 1968	-- Manufacturing operations begin in San German, Puerto Rico.
	-- Employment increases 68% to over 2,600 people, including 225 engineers and programmers and 360 field engineers. There are over 50 sales and service offices located in 11 countries.
October 1968	-- Japanese headquarters opens in Tokyo.
May 1969	-- Digital stock splits three-for-one.
June 1969	-- European Headquarters opens in Geneva, Switzerland.
January 1970	-- Production begins at new plant in Westminister, Massachusetts, producing peripherals and metals products.
April 1970	-- First deliveries of PDP-11/20, Digital's first 16-bit minicomputer and first member of the world's most successful minicomputer family.
June 1970	-- Total number of installed Digital computers passes 8,000, of which approximately 1,800 are in Europe.
October 1970	-- Digital establishes its first West Coast manufacturing operation at Mountain View, California, for making disks.

December 1970	-- Digital stock begins trading on the New York Stock Exchange.
June 1971	-- First annual customer satisfaction survey is taken.
November 1971	-- Manufacturing starts in Galway, Ireland. -- DECsystem-10 is introduced.
January 1972	-- Spaced is leased in Springfield, Massachusetts, Armory to build power supplies and sub-assemblies. -- Parker Street complex opens in Maynard, Massachusetts.
May 1972	-- Construction is completed on new manufacturing plant in Kanata, Ontario.
June 1972	-- Annual sales reach \$188 million. Digital has 7,800 employees.
October 1972	-- Taiwan plant opens for core memory stringing operations.
September 1973	-- Digital purchases administrative and manufacturing facilities in Marlboro, Massachusetts, from RCA.
December 1973	-- Hong Kong plant opens for core memory stringing operations. -- Manufacturing begins in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico.
March 1974	-- 30,000th computer system is shipped.
April 1974	-- MPS, Digital's first microprocessor, is introduced. -- Digital enters FORTUNE 500, ranking 475th in sales among U.S. industrial corporations.
June 1974	-- Maynard Industrial Park (the Mill) -- 23 buildings, 1.6 million square feet -- is purchased.
February 1975	-- LSI-11, Digital's first 16-bit microcomputer, and the powerful PDP-11/70 are added to the PDP-11 family.

April 1975	-- Introduction of Digital's Network Architecture.
September 1975	-- 50,000th computer system is delivered, just 15 years after introduction of Digital's first computer.
January 1976	-- Introduction of 36-bit DECSYSTEM-20, the lowest-priced general-purpose timesharing system on the market.
	-- New manufacturing plant opens in Ayr, Scotland.
October 1976	-- Digital stock splits three-for-one.
November 1976	-- Manufacturing begins in Burlington, Vermont.
May 1977	-- New manufacturing plants open in Kaufbeuren, West Germany, and Augusta, Maine.
June 1977	-- Digital breaks the billion-dollar-a-year mark in sales; has 36,000 employees.
July 1977	-- Introduction of the industry's first computerized remote diagnosis in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
October 1977	-- Introduction of VAX-11/780, the first member of the VAX computer family.
	-- Stock is now traded on the Pacific Stock Exchange.
	-- New Digital facility opens in Merrimack, New Hampshire.
November 1977	-- Plant opens in Clonmel, Ireland.
February 1978	-- Digital ships its 100,000th computer.
April 1978	-- Plant opens in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
May 1978	-- New engineering facility opens in Tewksbury, Massachusetts.
July 1978	-- Digital's first retail computer store opens in Manchester, New Hampshire.

March 1979	-- Digital opens the largest industrial training facility in New England at Bedford, Massachusetts.
January 1980	-- 200,000th computer shipped.
February 1980	-- Introduction of DECnet Phase III -- the most advanced networking in the computer industry.
April 1980	-- Digital opens state-of-the-art high technology center for manufacturing semiconductors at Hudson, Massachusetts.
June 1980	-- Digital, Intel and Xerox cooperate in Ethernet local network project.
	-- Digital breaks \$2 billion mark in sales.
July 1980	-- Manufacturing plant opens in Boston, Massachusetts.
	-- Digital opens software engineering facility in Nashua, New Hampshire.
August 1980	-- Production facility in Tempe, Arizona, for making printed wiring boards is purchased from ITT Courier.
October 1980	-- Introduction of VAX-11/750, second member of the VAX family and the industry's first Large Scale Integration (LSI) 32-bit minicomputer.
March 1981	-- Announcement of PDP-11/24 minicomputer system.
June 1981	-- Digital breaks \$3 billion mark in sales.
September 1981	-- Customer Support Center opens in Atlanta, Georgia, offering telephone support for office systems hardware and software.
March 1982	-- Production begins at Greenville, South Carolina, printed circuit facility.
April 1982	-- Introduction of the VAX-11/730, the third member of Digital's 32-bit computer family.

- May 1982
- Introduction of a complete range of personal computers -- Professional 325 and 350, Rainbow 100 and DECmate II.
 - Digital ranks 137th in total sales in FORTUNE Magazine's annual directory of the largest industrial corporations in the United States.
- June 1982
- Annual sales reach \$3.9 billion. Employee population is over 67,000.
 - Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center opens in Andover, Massachusetts.
 - Announcement of RA60 and RA81 disks and Digital Storage Architecture put Digital at the forefront in storage technology.
- July 1982
- New manufacturing plant opens in Singapore, Malaysia.
- August 1982
- Digital celebrates its first 25 years, during which over 360,000 computers have been shipped.
- September 1982
- Japan Research and Development Center opens in Tokyo.
- April 1983
- Digital announces VAXclusters, a process for tying VAX processors together in a loose processor coupling.
 - The company breaks into FORTUNE Magazine's top 100 U.S. industrial companies by ranking 95th in sales.
- May 1983
- Digital donates its largest single gift, \$25 million, to Project Athena, a joint experimental program with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and IBM which will integrate the next generation of computers and interactive graphics into undergraduate education throughout MIT.
- June 1983
- Annual sales surpass \$4 billion mark.
- October 1983
- Introduction of MicroVAX I and VAX-11/725, designed to extend the 32-bit VAX computer family.

November 1983	-- VT200 family of video terminals introduced.
December 1983	-- DECTalk, a text-to-speech system that allows computers to talk, is announced.
January 1984	-- Systems Research Center formed in Palo Alto, California.
March 1984	-- Northeast Technology Center for Storage Systems opens in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts.
April 1984	-- Introduction of VAX-11/785, the most powerful single computer to date in Digital's VAX family. -- 25,000th VAX computer system shipped.
June 1984	-- Annual sales reach \$5.6 billion. The company maintains 660 offices in 47 countries with 85,600 employees.
July 1984	-- Introduction of MicroPDP-11/73, a top-of-the-line minicomputer.
October 1984	-- Announcement of VAX 8600, the first of a new generation of computers within the VAX family and the highest performance computer system in Digital's history. -- Introduction of VAXstation I, the company's first true 32-bit single-user workstation. -- Announcement of DECmate III, Digital's lowest-cost desktop computer, optimized for word processing.
December 1984	-- Introduction of PDP-11/84 minicomputer for Original Equipment Manufacturers.
April 1985	-- For the eleventh consecutive year, Digital increases its standing in FORTUNE Magazine's listing of the nation's 100 leading U.S. companies, moving up 19 places to number 65.

- May 1985

- Digital signs agreement with Elebra Computadores, opening Brazilian market to Digital minicomputer products.
- June 1985

- Introduction of MicroVAX II, which incorporates the revolutionary "VAX-on-a-chip" and has the highest level of functionality of any 32-bit processor in the industry; and VAXstation II, a high-performance graphics workstation.
- July 1985

- Annual sales reach \$6.7 billion. The company now maintains over 900 facilities worldwide, representing over 29 million square feet of space.
- August 1985

- Digital becomes the first company to register a new semiconductor chip under the Semiconductor Protection Act of 1984 (the MicroVAX II chip).
- September 1985

- Digital ships 2,000th MicroVAX II.
- November 1985

- DECville '85, an ambitious exhibition held in Cannes, France, underlines Digital's contributions to the European economy.
- December 1985

- Introduction of MicroPDP-11/83, the most powerful Q-bus 16-bit-wordlength computer in Digital's history.
 - In Turin, Italy, Digital opens an Application Center for Technology dedicated to the automotive industry.
- January 1986

- The VAX 8650, with a CPU 44% more powerful than the VAX 8600, is introduced.
 - "Digital Has It Now" advertising campaign begins.
- Introduction of the VAXstation II/GPX, Digital's first technical workstation for the UNIX marketplace.
 - Introduction of the top-of-the-line VAX 8800 and midrange VAX 8300 and VAX 8200.

- February 1986
- Digital hosts DECWORLD '86 in Boston, Massachusetts, the largest single-company computer exposition held to date.
 - Announcement of DECconnect wiring strategy and related products and services extends networking leadership.
- April 1986
- Introduction of the midrange VAX 8500.
 - Stock splits two-for-one.
 - The company rises in rank to number 55 on FORTUNE Magazine's listing of the leading 100 industrial companies.
- June 1986
- Annual sales reach \$7.6 billion. The company now employs over 94,000 people, occupying over 31 million square feet of space.
 - Networking Center dedicated at King Street in Littleton, Massachusetts.
- August 1986
- Introduction of VAX 8550 and VAX 8700 systems.
- September 1986
- Introduction of VAXmate, a networked personal computer which can combine the resources of the VAX-VMS and MS-DOS* operating systems.
 - Digital acquires technology and other assets of Trilogy Technology Corp. in Cupertino, California.
- October 1986
- FORTUNE magazine declares Digital founder and President Kenneth H. Olsen "arguably the most successful entrepreneur in the history of American business."
- November 1986
- Digital introduces Local Area VAXcluster systems, extending distributed computing to the work group.
- January 1987
- Introduction of VAX 8978 and VAX 8974, Digital's most powerful systems to date, offering up to 50 times the power of the industry-standard VAX-11/780.

- Moody's Investors Services raises Digital's long-term debt rating to Aaa, its highest rating.
- February 1987
- Digital ships its 100,000th VAX computer system, a VAX 8800 to be used for oil exploration and production computing at The Standard Oil Company's Technical Data Center in Dallas, Texas.
 - Introduction of VAXstation 2000 and MicroVAX 2000, Digital's lowest-cost workstation and multiuser computers, respectively.
- April 1987
- Digital cracks the FORTUNE 50, climbing to number 44 in the magazine's annual listing of the largest U.S. industrial corporations.
 - Business Week magazine ranks Digital eighth among "America's Most Valuable Companies," based on a market value of \$21.6 billion -- a 128-percent increase from the previous year.
 - The VT330 and VT340 signify the introduction of a new generation of video terminals, with twice the resolution, up to five times the speed and significantly lower prices than their predecessors.
- June 1987
- Digital and Cray Research, Inc., the leading producer of supercomputers, announce cooperative agreement to market and develop products that link their respective computer environments -- beginning with the VAX Supercomputer Gateway.
 - Annual sales climb 24% to \$9.39 billion for Fiscal Year 1987, with net income up 84% to \$1.14 billion. Return on shareholder equity rises to 19% in FY87 from 12% in FY86.
- August 1987
- Thirty years after its inception, Digital has 110,500 employees, occupies 33.6 million square feet in 1,057 buildings, and does business in 64 countries.

September 1987

- DECWORLD '87 draws 48,500 people to Boston's World Trade Center over a 9-day period. With the Queen Elizabeth 2 and Star/ship Oceanic serving as floating hotels and conference centers, invited customers from around the world experienced the most expansive demonstration of computing capabilities ever mounted by one company.
- Digital unveils a new generation of its MicroVAX computer family with the introduction of the MicroVAX 3500 and 3600 systems, two high-performance, CMOS-technology based departmental computers. Also announced: VAXstation 3200 and 3500, two new workstations; VAXservers which share the new MicroVAX processor technology; and Phase V of the Digital Network Architecture, migrating DECnet products to full compliance with the OSI (Open Systems Interconnection) model.

January 1988

- Digital and Apple Computer, Inc., announce a joint development effort to link Apple's Macintosh personal computers and Appletalk networks with VAX computer systems and DECnet/OSI enterprise networks. Digital also extends its Network Applications Support (NAS) facilities to integrate MS-DOS, OS/2, and UNIX systems into the open DECnet/OSI network environment.
- Digital and Hinditron of India announce agreement to form Digital Equipment (India) Ltd., a joint venture to manufacture MicroVAX computers and market Digital products in India.

March 1988

- Digital introduces its most powerful VAX computers to date -- the VAX 8800 series of systems, which utilize VMS symmetric multiprocessing and deliver up to 3.7 times the processing power of the VAX 8700 computer.

April 1988

- Digital jumps six notches to number 38 in FORTUNE magazine's annual listing of America's largest industrial corporations.
- The VAX 6200 series of compact, high-performance network computer systems is unveiled. The new systems are the first to combine symmetric multiprocessing with the high speed of Digital's VAXBI bus and the low cost and reliability of CMOS (complementary metal oxide semiconductor) technology.
- Version 5 of Digital's VMS operating system is introduced, with enhanced speed and functionality.

May 1988

- Digital and six other leading computer companies announce formation of the Open Software Foundation, intended to develop and provide an open software environment.

June 1988

- Annual revenues rise 22 percent to \$11.5 billion for Fiscal Year 1988, with net income up 15 percent to \$1.3 billion. Digital now employs 121,500 people in over 1,100 facilities worldwide.

July 1988

- Introduction of DECtp, a systems environment that integrates the capabilities necessary to build large-scale transaction processing applications, effectively enabling Digital systems to process up to 100 transactions per second.

September 1988

- Under the theme, "Integrating the Enterprise," DECWORLD'88 is held in Cannes, France, and 11 U.S. cities, welcoming over 20,000 visitors to the world's largest single-vendor information systems symposium and exhibition.

- Digital forms a subsidiary in the Peoples Republic of China. Digital Equipment (China) Ltd. will include sales and service centers in Beijing and Shanghai and a manufacturing plant in Shenzhen.
- Digital formalizes its strategic direction as a major systems integrator with the introduction of Enterprise Services and Network Enterprise Management Program.
- Digital and MIPS Computer Systems, Inc., announce a comprehensive technology exchange agreement for RISC (reduced instruction set computer) technology, and Digital's intention to purchase a minority share in MIPS.

October 1988

- MicroVAX 3300 and MicroVAX 3400 computer systems are introduced, doubling the price/performance of MicroVAX II. The systems incorporate the new RF30 integrated storage element, a 150-megabyte implementation of the Digital Storage Architecture.

January 1989

- Digital announces its broadest set of desktop solutions ever, including DECwindows software, which will enable users to access VMS, UNIX and MS-DOS applications from anywhere on the network; DECstation 3100, the world's fastest UNIX/RISC workstation; VAXstation 3100, Digital's top price-performance VAX workstation; VAXstation 3520 and 3540, multiprocessor workstations with high-resolution graphics; DECstation 210, 316 and 320, a family of industry-standard personal computers; and six new complementary storage devices.
- Introduction of the VAX 6300 systems, Digital's most powerful and expandable VAX systems in a single cabinet, offering up to 35% higher performance with twice the expansion range and only 5% higher cost than the VAX 6200 line; and a range of new high-capacity, high-performance storage offerings.

- March 1989 -- DECSYSTEM 3100, Digital's first RISC-based UNIX general-purpose computer system, is introduced.
- April 1989 -- Digital climbs eight places to 30th on FORTUNE magazine's annual survey of the largest U.S. industrial corporations -- marking the 15th consecutive year the company's standing has risen.
- MicroVAX family is broadened with the introduction of top-of-the-line MicroVAX 3800 and MicroVAX 3900 computers.
- June 1989 -- Digital's annual revenues grow to \$12.7 billion for Fiscal 1989 -- 55% outside the U.S. -- with net income at \$1.07 billion, and a worldwide workforce of 125,800 people.
- July 1989 -- In Edinburgh, Scotland, test production begins at Digital's newest and most advanced semiconductor manufacturing facility. The plant represents Digital's largest-ever single investment outside the U.S.
- MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING magazine selects Digital for its 1989 Manufacturing Excellence Award, as one of the 10 best American manufacturing companies at which to work.
- With the expansion of Network Applications Support (NAS), Digital unveils the industry's most open computing environment for the 1990s.
- VAX 6000 Model 400 systems are introduced, with up to 85 percent more performance than the popular VAX 6300 line.
- Introduction of MicroVAX 3100 system lowers entry-level price of MicroVAX family by up to 40 percent while increasing performance 2.5 times.

- Digital adds four new members to its UNIX-based RISC family -- the DECstation 2100 workstation, the DECsystem 5400 computer, and the DECsystem 5810 and DECsystem 5820 departmental systems.

September 1989

- Digital details technical breakthroughs it has achieved in the application of semiconductor processing for multi-chip packaging -- more than doubling a computer's performance when compared to conventional circuit board technology.

October 1989

- Digital brings mainframe speed and functionality to the VAX architecture with the introduction of the VAX 9000 family of systems -- Digital's most powerful computers ever.

February 1990

- In response to political and economic reforms, Digital announces its first direct investment in Eastern Europe -- Digital Equipment (Hungary) Ltd., a joint venture company based in Budapest.
- Digital ships its one-millionth VT320 terminal, to Barclays Bank in the U.K.
- The first major international art exhibition sponsored by Digital, "Monet in the '90s: The Series Paintings" opens in Boston. The exhibition, with Digital as its sole corporate underwriter, will also travel to Chicago and London during 1990.
- Adding fault-tolerant technology to the VAX family, Digital introduces the VAXft 3000 system. This is the first fault-tolerant system in the industry to run a mainstream operating system (VMS), and extends Digital's industry-leading range of high-availability solutions for transaction-processing applications.

March 1990

- Easynet, Digital's internal computer network, adds its 50,000th node. The largest private data network in the world, Easynet serves over 100,000 users at nearly 500 sites around the world. Easynet plays an integral role in Digital's business processes, and also serves as an engineering testbed and customer showcase for Digital's networking capabilities.
- Operations center is opened in West Berlin to prepare for the opportunities created by a unified German marketplace.

April 1990

- Digital climbs three places to 27th on the FORTUNE 500, the 16th consecutive year that the company's position has risen. For the decade from 1979-1989, Digital ranked second among FORTUNE 500 companies in average annual compound growth rate, at 21.7%.
- Digital announces more than 20 new computers, peripherals and software products -- including the DECstation 5000 workstation and DECSYSTEM 5000 server -- that significantly extend the distributed computing capabilities of its RISC-based open systems offerings.
- Digital announces a new water-based technology used to clean printed circuit boards that can eliminate CFC (chlorofluorocarbon) solvents that destroy the ozone layer. Digital will allow other manufacturers worldwide to use this technology without charge, as part of its commitment to protecting the ozone layer.

May 1990

- The 20th anniversary of the introduction of the first PDP-11 computer is marked by the introduction of two new PDP-11 systems: MicroPDP-11/93 and PDP-11/94. The longest-lived family of general-purpose computers has included over 20 members. More than 600,000 have been installed.

Mark Fredrickson
May 1990

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