



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