

Chapter 1 : SuperCalc | Revolv

Creating a spreadsheet with SuperCalc by Sorcim on a vintage Osborne I computer, One of the first spreadsheet applications for CP/M (Z80 CPU). It was part of its Office Suite.

Early history[edit] The company was founded to expand the microcomputer products from Digicom, a company formed by Richard in Paul joined in In fact at one time Godbout helped relieve a short-term cash flow problem by doing a one-time buy of development tool products. In late Fall of , Adam was looking for a spreadsheet for the Osborne I. His efforts to acquire rights to VisiCalc [citation needed] were disappointing, so he asked Sorcim if they would be interested in developing a spreadsheet that would be competitive with VisiCalc, and develop it in time to showcase it at the West Coast Computer Faire in April With Martin Herbach as the lead architect, the company hired Gary Balleisen, as the lead developer, to implement a demo version of the application. Someone selected the name SuperCalc. The enthusiastic reception surprised the Sorcim folks. By the month mark, the company had sold over , copies of the original SuperCalc. There were some other early spreadsheet programs, but these two programs shared essentially the entire market. They removed the company president and each founder took on an acting VP role: SuperCalc2, SuperWriter, and SuperChart, which were all announced in November , had no concrete ship dates, and a census of projects in the company showed that the development staff of about 20 people was working on over projects. This was whittled down to the main applications and development tools. At this time, the company made its first serious effort to establish control over the products, and Greg Resnick who came aboard with the SpellGuard acquisition became Product Manager of SuperWriter, while new hire Walter Feigenson came in to manage SuperCalc. The founders were still actively looking for a new leader during the early part of , since they were out of their elements and getting more frustrated as time moved on. They had interviewed a number of candidates for CEO, but none was acceptable. Finally they coalesced around Jim Pelkey, who had started consulting for the founders in late Pelkey was introduced to the company by Jack Melchor of Melchor Venture Management to help management create a strategic plan. Sales continued at a healthy upward pace, despite strong competition from Lotus The marketing challenge was to create a solid relationship with IBM while generating as much revenue as possible from existing products. Work began on a new "killer" product that was to become SuperCalc3. Lotus was the most notable exception. New Management Establishes Future Directions[edit] The engineering organization was divided into three major efforts: The capital structure constraints required the company to become profitable, again attain market growth and to create an exciting business plan for the future; all aimed at raising a new capital round in the early part of There were two purposes: This work had previously been done on paper and at white boards. In fact, there was another project going on to define this productâ€”a kind of skunkworks team composed of Martin Herbach, Dave Montagna also of CDC Fortran compiler fame , and Walter Feigenson. This team got pretty far into defining what would have been a windowing system based on technology they had acquired from Payment Pouladdej and Peter Fioreâ€”a system that appeared very similar to GEM , which was being developed by Digital Research much to the chagrin of Payment and Peter who had shown it to Digital Research before joining Sorcim. This project died when Computer Associates acquired Sorcim. SuperCalc was effectively the only competition to at that point, and SC3 was vastly superior to in its graphics. When Product Manager Walter Feigenson showed Kapor the product for the first time, Mitch was astounded that SC3 could do everything it did from a single disk. He even remarked that he had to reprogram in Assembler to get its speed - and he wanted to know how Martin Herbach had managed to get the C-coded graphics engine to work in the middle of a non-relocatable Assembler program. By all accounts, Martin had achieved the impossible. Microsoft eventually abandoned MultiPlan in favor of Excel. The only difference in versions was the disk size and recording format. At the same time, the company created a corporate sales organization. Sales to businesses were not advancing fast enough to fund our efforts. Management concluded that the company needed additional financial resources. But at retail, the company was never able to make a significant dent in the juggernaut. Sorcim did find a "sweet spot" in the US Government and some large companies that refused to buy software with copy

protection, which was included in every copy of Additional Financing[edit] Throughout this time, the company continued to increase headcount to get to the "critical mass" required to be a major player in the industry. Newly acquired products, as well as home-built efforts, failed to achieve much sales success. SuperWriter, when it shipped, never sold in substantial quantities, and was limited by its ability to edit only what it could hold in memory. Non-standard defocused efforts in the predominant market, especially on contracts they had for computers for which the company could not complete an effective port. By this time, Osborne, which never established a foothold in the DOS market, was no longer a factor in portable computers. But there were others in the works, and Sorcim worked with many of these startups. The burden of revenue for the company was always SuperCalc, no matter how the company tried to branch out. Starting with SuperCalc2, the product life cycle was tightened to 9 months. The objective was to catch up to and pass After all, it can do anything that can do and adds some notable features of its own. The company also funded a million dollar print advertising campaign in the Wall Street Journal and other national papers that failed to increase sales. In the early part of , it became clear that the revenue bubble that Sorcim and substantially all of the other companies in the PC marketplace had experienced was bursting. Consequently, management re-hired Alex. Brown and Sons to find a corporate partner. In the spring of , Computer Associates purchased Sorcim.

Chapter 2 : SuperCalc | IT History Society

The Osborne 1 is considered as the 1st portable computers which was available to the masses. It came out and was bundled with popular CP/M software - it soon became a great success. The video.

Osborne 1 Adam Osborne is a British author, book and software publisher, one of the most charming, persuasive, egotistical, and supremely confident people in the computing field, indeed, in all industry. Adam Osborne was born in Thailand in to British parents and spent much of his childhood in Tamil Nadu in South India, where his father, the writer Arthur Osborne, a devotee of Sri Ramana Maharshi, helped popularize ideas from Eastern religion in the West. Osborne moved to England as a teenager and received a degree in chemical engineering from Birmingham University in . He later received a doctorate in chemical engineering at the University of Delaware and took a job with Shell Oil in California, but he left Shell in the early s to pursue his interest in computers and technical writing. In he founded Osborne and Associates to create a series of easy-to-read computing manuals long before the For Dummies By , Osborne Books, as the company had become, had published over 40 computing titles. In , Osborne sold his publishing company to McGraw-Hill. During the same time, he began writing columns for computer magazines Interface Age and later Infoworld. He was becoming increasingly convinced that for computers to be truly useful, they needed to be mobile, as they needed to move with the people who used them and be available whenever and wherever people were. The laptop is a small portable computer having its primary components processor, display, keyboard built into a single unit capable of battery powered operation, which typically weighs from 1 to 7 kg, depending upon dimensions, materials, and other variables. As the personal computer became viable in the early s, the thought of a portable personal computer arose. Osborne asked Felsenstein to develop the hardware of the portable computer. Using the money from his publishing business along with venture capital Osborne found Osborne Computer Corp. The machine weighed only 24 pounds, had a column display that would fit on a five-inch screen, contained a cushioning tube, and had two floppy disk drives. The Osborne 1 see the lower image featured a 5 inch column display, two floppy-disk drives capacity 92K , a Z80 microprocessor working at 4. In the first 8 months since its introduction, Osborne 1 computers ship. The peak sales per month for Osborne 1 personal computers over the course of the product lifetime was units, despite the initial business plan for the computer predicting a total of only units sold over the entire product lifecycle. Despite early success, Osborne struggled under heavy competition. Besides the severe competition, Osborne made several heavy management and business errorsâ€”difficulty meeting demand, poor quality of the production, overstocking, etc. Dealers rapidly started canceling orders for the Osborne 1. Losses, already higher than expected, continued to mount, and Osborne declared bankruptcy in September, This marketing blunder came to be known as Osborneing and the phrase circulated in Silicon Valley for the next decade. However, the company never regained its early prominence. In the s Adam Osborne returned to India, the land of his youth, and started up another company dealing with computer software. He died in March,

Chapter 3 : Talk:SuperCalc - Wikipedia

SuperCalc topic. SuperCalc is a CP/M spreadsheet application published by Sorcim in Visicalc was the first spreadsheet program but was not available for the popular CP/M operating system.

Chapter 4 : History of Computers - Osborne 1 - SJS Wiki

SuperCalc is a CP/M spreadsheet application published by Sorcim in VisiCalc was the first spreadsheet program but its release for the CP/M operating system ran only on the HP, Sharp MZ80, and the Sony SMC

Chapter 5 : What is Osborne 1? - Definition from Techopedia

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SuperCalc 3 v SuperCalc was a spreadsheet application published by Sorcim in , and originally bundled (along with WordStar) as part of the CP/M software package included with the Osborne 1 portable computer.

Chapter 6 : SuperCalc - Wikipedia

Osborne 1 was the first ever portable microcomputer. It was released in by Osborne Computer Corporation and used a design that was inspired largely by the Xerox NoteTaker.

Chapter 7 : WinWorld: SuperCalc 3 v

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Chapter 8 : The Osborne 1: A pioneer in more ways than one | ZDNet

See also: "The Birth of SuperCalc" section of the Wikipedia page for Sorcim (apparently written by Wally Feigenson): "The product was introduced in April at the West Coast Computer Faire in the Osborne booth."

Chapter 9 : SuperCalc Download

Supposedly the SuperCalc spreadsheet bundled with the Osborne could make use of the column mode, and I imagine the extra screen real estate would be very useful for spreadsheet work. I haven't checked close-up with the 52 column mode, but I think the characters are made from the same number of pixels (they are just twice as wide).