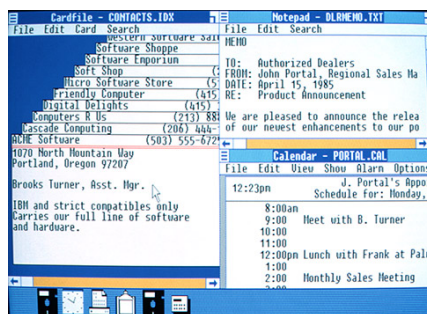


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A history of Windows

[1975–1981](#)[1982–1985](#)[1987–1990](#)[1990–1994](#)[1995–1998](#)[1998–2000](#)[2001–2005](#)[2006–2008](#)[2009–2011](#)[2012–2013](#)[2013](#)

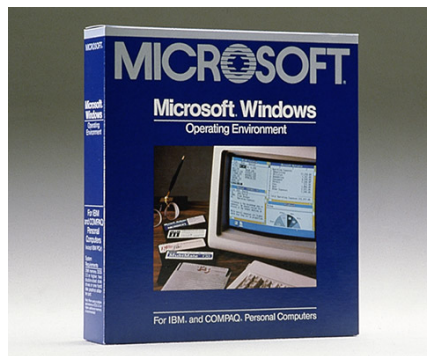
1982–1985: Introducing Windows 1.0



The Windows 1.0 desktop

Microsoft works on the first version of a new operating system. **Interface Manager** is the code name and is considered as the final name, but **Windows** prevails because it best describes the boxes or computing "windows" that are fundamental to the new system. Windows is announced in 1983, but it takes a while to develop. Skeptics call it "vaporware."

On November 20, 1985, two years after the initial announcement, Microsoft ships Windows 1.0. Now, rather than typing MS-DOS commands, you just move a mouse to point and click your way through screens, or "windows." Bill Gates says, "It is unique software designed for the serious PC user."



The fully-packaged Windows 1.0

There are drop-down menus, scroll bars, icons, and dialog boxes that make programs easier to learn and use. You're able to switch among several programs without having to quit and restart each one. Windows 1.0 ships with several programs, including MS-DOS file management, Paint, Windows Writer, Notepad, Calculator, and a calendar, card file, and clock to help you manage day-to-day activities. There's even a game—Reversi.

Geek trivia: Remember floppy disks and kilobytes?

Windows 1.0 requires a minimum of 256 kilobytes (KB), two double-sided floppy disk drives, and a graphics adapter card. A hard disk and 512 KB memory is recommended for running multiple programs or when using DOS 3.0 or higher.

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