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## **The History of Windows**

Nowadays there are not so many users who can use their PCs without Windows as an operating system. That is why the history of Windows is in the focus of my paper.

In 1975 two young computer enthusiasts, Bill Gates and Paul Allen, who saw personal computing as a path to the future form a partnership called Microsoft. In June 1980 Steve Ballmer, their Harvard classmate, was hired to help to run the company.

Firstly, Microsoft focused on a new operation system – “MS-DOS”. In 1983 Windows was announced and it took a while to develop. Microsoft ships Window 1.0 in November, 1985. For the first time drop-down menus, scroll bars, icons and dialog boxes.

Microsoft Windows 2.0 was released in December, 1987. It was with desktop icons, expanded memory, controlling the screen layout and using keyboard shortcuts to speed up the work.

In 1988 Microsoft became the world’s largest PC software company. Computers were becoming a part of daily life for some office workers. So, in May, 1990 Microsoft announced Windows 3.0, that had significantly better performance, advanced graphics with 16 colors and improved icons.

In July, 1993 Microsoft released Windows NT that became a strategic business platform which supports high-end engineering and scientific programs.

Well-known Microsoft Windows 95 was released in 1995. It has a built-in Internet support, dial-up networking and new Plug and Play capabilities.

Windows 98 appeared in 1998 included the ability to open and close programs more quickly and support for reading universal serial bus (USB) devices.

After two years it was announced about Windows 2000, which added major improvements in reliability, Internet compatibility and support for mobile computing.

Windows XP was released in October, 2001. It was provided with remote desktop support, an encrypted file system, system restore, advanced networking features and security.

Released in January, 2007 Windows Vista with strongest security system and User Account Control that prevent potentially harmful software from making changes to the computer were criticized for its drawbacks.

Released in October, 2009 Microsoft Windows 7 includes advancement in touch, speech and handwriting recognition and support for additional file formats.

Recently Windows 8 has been released by Microsoft which differs by account integration, Windows Store and easier system restore options. As soon as the feedback is gathered there may be innovations or changes made by the company in this version too.