60 years of IT progress

Romilly Cocking

A bit like earlier talks, but
UK based
A little less APL
A little more scandal
tl;dr

- 11 years of (comparative) innocence
- Addicted to computers since 1958
- 20 years an APLer
- 20 years an Object Addict (some overlap)
- Recovering since 2005
v1 = 1.0
v2 = 1.0
v3 = 0.00001
v4 = 1.0
1) →2, v3 > v2
v2 = v2 / v4
v1 = v1 + v2
v4 = v4 + 1.0
→1
2) PRINT v1, 3026
STOP
(^0)
1969
1974

- Brian Drury joins Teknotalk
- PSG sends Atkins student on IPSA course

I write P350 disassembler in APL
I get bounced by IPSA )OPR
I learn not to loop
1976

- Cocking and Drury start up in London
- IPSA likes us
- APL User Group (now the BAA)
Later 1970s

- IBM 5100
- Dyadic start up
- STSC makes friends with ADM
- IPSA doesn't love us any more
- MicroAPL start up in London
- STSC open London Office
- Inner Product start up in London
- Jonathan Barman joins C&D
1980s

- NARS
- APL2
- APL83 in Loughborough
- C&D market Sharefile in UK
- APL*Plus PC
- C&D take over APL*Plus UK role
- APL86 in Manchester
- C&D - 40 developers, £1.2M payroll
- Brian Drury leaves C&D
- IBM IC/1 revenue falls through the floor
  - MF APL market starts to decline
- C&D Start selling Smalltalk
1990s

- MF APL market in serious decline
- Death by 1000 cuts for C&D
  - CLOB project
  - 4 new challenges at once
  - 5x cost over-run
- IBM goes O-O
  - Smalltalk, then Java
  - Croesos project
- 1994 C&D closes down
  - C&D s/w → Bloomsbury Software
- IBM starts OTU
  - Object immersion courses
  - Smalltalk, C++, Java
2000s

• Websphered
  – AFEB course

• TDD

• Some fun gigs...
  – BNP Paribas, Easynet

• And the project from hell
  – Time to retire
2015

\[
f (\sum x_i w_i + b)
\]
cycle←{⍺ granfire ⍵ granuleThresholds ⍺}
fireGolgis←{(0[+/,⍺)++/[1]+/[3]2 5 2 5⍴⍵}
granfire←{⍵<0[+/≠neighbours ⍺} 
granuleThresholds←{spread thresholds ⍺ fireGolgis ⍵}
neighbours←{⍵⍪(1⊖⍵)⍪(1⊖⍵),[-0.5]1⌽1⊖⍵}
spread←{5 5\[0]5 5\[1]⍵}
thresholds←{⍺←0 0.3 0.5 0.7 ◊ +/[0]⍺⊙.≤⍵÷25}
view←{0.2×⍺[;⍵+10]}
Learn APL on the $5 Raspberry Pi

Your fast track from ideas to code

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(email me for free early access to the book)

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Thanks

- To Dyalog and the BAA for helping me to get here
- To Ken Iverson for APL
- To you, his successors, for keeping the flame alight
- Here's to the next 50 years!