

# Clarion Magazine

## A Brief History of Clarion

The following is a work in progress. If you have material you'd like to contribute to this history of Clarion, [please send it along](#) or post a comment at the bottom of the page (you must be logged in first).

Events with incomplete or uncertain information are colored yellow.

Date	Description	Notes
1973	Bruce Barrington starts HBO & Company.	Barrington writes a multi-user operating system and macro language for the IVPhase desktop computer, one key feature of which is memory-mapped video. BB forms ideas that would later evolve into Clarion.
1979	Niels Jensen starts Midas ASP	Develops and markets software for microcomputers. First product is WordIndex, an add-on for WordStar. Midas acquires an Irish shell company named Borland International Ltd. Eventually Midas begins doing business as Borland, and later Phillippe Kahn is hired to run the US operations.
1981	HBO goes public, BB lives "pretty comfortably"	BB buys an Apple II but finds Pascal frustrating. Doesn't consider this a business machine
1981	IBM releases the PC	BB says Aha! Memory mapped video! and calls up some HBO pals.
1982 (approx)	Work begins on Clarion 1.0	Team members include Monty Shaw, Bob Steinke, Gary Liming, John Herron
1983	Niels Jensen and Poly Pascal	Jensen discovers a product for the CPM-80 called Poly Pascal, written by Anders Heilsberg. Borland acquires marketing rights and renames Poly Pascal to Turbo Pascal. Jensen's team later writes the enormously popular Sidekick.
1985	Borland moves to London	Begins developing new compiler line for Modula-2, C and C++
1986	Clarion 1.0 released, April.	Dongle almost kills the product, removed in 1.1
1986	JPI is formed	Niels Jensen is also one of the founders of Borland (1983).
1987	Borland USA acquires Wizard C, which became Turbo C	The Borland language team leaves and forms JPI.

1987	Designer under development	Bruce Barrington and John Herron begin writing the Designer product. Steve Parker recalls BB saying John Herron was the creator of Designer: ("It took him a year and it almost killed him").
1988	CPD 2.0 released, May	The first version of Clarion to include Designer. Wins PC Magazine's Editor's Choice. InfoWorld rates CPD along with Paradox as the best programmable database.
1990	TopSpeed technology licensed	Niels and Bruce work out a deal to use TopSpeed compiler technology in Clarion 3.0 (CDD 3.0)
1990	Report Writer introduced	Approx date: "a year and a half after CPD"
1991	Euro Sales Manager	George Ratchiff of Essex is hired as the European Sales Manager
1991	CLARIONET	No, not the thin client technology for Clarion for Windows, but an online information service announced by Clarion Software as part of the Clarion Developer's Exchange, for just \$150 per year. Ten hours of toll free access included!
1991	<b>DevCon #1</b>	The very first Clarion DevCon was held Sept 22-25 at the Westin Hotel in Ft. Lauderdale. CDD 3.0 announced, but little shown of substance. Keynote speakers included Bruce Barrington, Will Fastie, and Niels Jensen.
1992	Staff turnover	Six of the original seven R&D people, as of 1990, have left.
1992	<b>DevCon #2</b>	Marriott Harbour Beach in Ft. Lauderdale. CDD 3.0 shown, but not in final release yet.
1992	CDD release at end of year (or might have been early '93)	
1992	JPI and Clarion Software merge in April, announcement made at the end of the year.	The new company has a head office in Pompano Beach and a development center in London (LDC). Later the LDC is revealed to be under contract to TopSpeed.
1993	Aussie DevCon	Sydney, Australia, CW 1.5 released, also "pen stuff" for CDD

1993	<b>DevCon #3</b> , Sept, first CW demo	Ft. Lauderdale (Marriott Harbour Beach again?). David Bayliss speaks and shows some actual Clarion for Windows applications. Ross Santos finds the third party vendor displays "boring". Keynotes by Will Fastie and Mark Burgess.
1993	DevCon Boston	Hosted by Ben Brady
1993	Tom Moseley hired to work on templates	Tom previously worked with Dave Howington on the LPM add-on.
1994	CW 1.0 Beta 2 released	Then called CDDW
1994	CW 1.0 Beta 3 released	Mid-year release, and the first to include the AppGen.
1994	Clarion Consulting Services formed	headed up by Chris Behling, former VP of Marketing
1994	Randy Wood hired as VP of Product Development	March 21, 1994
1994	<b>DevCon #4?</b>	The Boca Raton Resort & Club. Keynote by John Dvorak (?)
1994?	DevCon West	Year not confirmed, and there were at least two of these. Stamos says one was at the Hilton, the other possibly at the Hyatt. John Griffiths recalls the DoubleTree hotel and Bruce Barrington showing an early CW beta, presumably either of 1.5 or 2.0, depending on the year.
1994	Aussie DevCon	Sydney, Australia
1994	Clarion Software becomes Topspeed Corporation	
1995	<b>DevCon #5?</b>	Location unknown. In fact, whether there was a DevCon in '95 is unknown.
1995?	South American DevCon?	Argentina?
1995	CW 1.5 released, September	
1995	CDD 3.1 released	
1996	Final CW 1.5 release, January	Version 1.502. Includes support for 32 bit executables.
1996	Kerrville gathering	Kerrville, TX. <a href="#">Pics</a> . Ross Santos discovers fire ants.
1996	CW 2.0 Released, June	Adds object orientation, ActiveX support, enhanced SQL support

1996	<b>DevCon #6</b>	Held at the Orland airport, and generally regarded as the absolute worst DevCon location.
1996	Arizona DevCon, Nov	Hosted by Kathryn & Phil Carroll, and I think Larry Teames had just a bit to do with it as well
1997	Aussie DevCon, Feb	Sydney, Australia
1997	Final CW 2.0 release, March	
1997	Euro DevCon, April	Held at the International Hotel in London. "A bunch of folks went to Beefeaters dressed up in costume. James Fortune was Friar Tuck....and a great time was had by all." - Skip Williams
1997	<b>DevCon #7, Sept</b>	Radison Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale. Keynote by Peter Coffee.
1997	Clarion 4 released, Dec	Introduced the ABC class library and template chain. The "for Windows" was dropped from the product name. There was no version 3; the official reason was that "1.5 should have been 2.0" and so 2.0 should have been 3.0, but it's generally believed that the company wishes to avoid any numerical association with the CDD 3 debacle.
1998	Sydney DevCon, Feb	Sydney, Australia. The President's Hotel in King's Cross.
1998	eData is formed	Hank Asher goes on to hire most of the London team.
1998	Clarion 5.0 released, May	First appearance of Professional and Enterprise versions
1998	Euro DevCon	May, Ramada Gatwick Airport
1998	<b>DevCon #8, Sept</b>	Marina Marriott hotel in Ft. Lauderdale. Keynote: Mr. Edward E. Iacobucci - Citrix chairman, chief technical officer and vice president of strategy and technology.
1998	ETC I, May	Lee White holds the first East Tennessee Clarion Conference in Gatlinburg.
1998	ConVic, Nov	Ballarat, Victoria, Australia. The first of Chris Livingstone's ConVic conferences
1998	South African DevCon, Nov	Johannesburg, Indaba Hotel, Fourways
1999	ClarionMag begins publication, Feb	
1999	Aussie DevCon, March	Sydney, Australia. <a href="#">Article</a> .
1999	Euro DevCon, April	Amsterdam, Golden Tulip Barbizon Palace

1999	DevCon Latin America, May	<a href="#">Article</a>
1999	Roy Rafalco resigns, Frank Watts hired as new CEO	
1999	ConVic '99	Mt. Buffalo, Australia. <a href="#">Article</a> . <a href="#">Article</a> .
1999	Clarion 5.0B released, June	Final 5.0 release
1999	Clarion 5.5 beta	
1999	<b>DevCon #9</b> , Sept	Hyatt Regency's Pier Sixty Six in Fort Lauderdale. Hank Asher keynotes, Main Street USA strategy announced, and it appears to many attendees that the company is being sold out in an attempt to grab a slice of the dot com pie.
2000	ETC II	Lee White holds the second East Tennessee Clarion Conference in Gatlinburg.
2000	ConVic	Daylesford, Australia. <a href="#">Article</a> .
2000	Clarion 5.5 released, August	Adds interfaces to the language
2000	South American ConDev	Sao Paulo, Brazil?
2001	South American ConDev, October	Argentina (last Argentinian Clarion conference before the economic collapse)
2001	ConVic 2001, March	Mt. Buffalo, Australia. <a href="#">Article</a> .
2002	Clarion 5.507 released, January	Final 5.5 release
2002	South American ConDev	??
2002	ConVic 2002	Geelong, Australia. <a href="#">Article</a> .
2002	ETC III	Lee White holds the third East Tennessee Clarion Conference in Gatlinburg. <a href="#">Articles</a> .
2003	ConVic 2003	Geelong, Australia. <a href="#">Article</a> .
2004	ETC IV	Lee White holds the fourth East Tennessee Clarion Conference in Gatlinburg. <a href="#">Articles</a> .
2004	South American ConDev	Porto Alegre.
2004	<b>DevCon #10</b> , Orlando	Held at the Disney contemporary resort. First SoftVelocity DevCon. Some Clarion# vaporware shown. <a href="#">Articles</a> .
2005	South American ConDev	Foz do Iquaco, Brazil. <a href="#">Article #1</a> . <a href="#">Article #2</a> .

2006	Aussie DevCon, May	Geelong, Australia. <a href="#">Articles</a> .
2007	First Clarion 7 hand coder's release	Build 1457 was released on Feb 23, 2007
2007	Aussie DevCon, May	Sydney, Australia. <a href="#">Articles</a> .
2007	First Clarion# hand coder's release	Nov 17
2008	Aussie DevCon, May	Eden, Australia. <a href="#">Articles</a> . First public appearance of AppGen.
2008	C7 AppGen Third Party Release	Oct 21
2008	C7 AppGen CSP release	Dec 24

## Reader Comments

*Posted on Monday, March 02, 2009 by Luis De Almeida*

November 12&13, 1991: Clarion Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, at the VW Midrand Conference Centre. BB was present at this conference.

May 6&7 1993: Clarion RADical Conference in Johannesburg at the Fourways Indaba Hotel. Richard Taylor (in charge of Documentation & Training, I think) was the Topspeed representative.

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*Posted on Monday, March 02, 2009 by Luis De Almeida*

Correction: Richard Taylor was at the Johannesburg Clarion "Wizatron" Conference in 1998, not the Clarion RADical Conference in 1993! Maybe someone else can shed a bit more light on this...

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*Posted on Monday, March 02, 2009 by Larry Sand*

The Internet Archive Wayback Machine shows the history of the TopSpeed web site until early 2001.

[http://web.archive.org/web/\\*/http://www.topspeed.com](http://web.archive.org/web/*/http://www.topspeed.com)

Then the SoftVelocity web site is phased in late 2000:

[http://web.archive.org/web/\\*/http://www.softvelocity.com](http://web.archive.org/web/*/http://www.softvelocity.com)

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*Posted on Monday, March 02, 2009 by Geoff Robinson*

The 1997 Oz DevCon was held at the Gazebo hotel, Sydney Jan/Feb and included Bruce Barrington, Tom Mosely, Scott Ferret etc. Internet Connect was shown and was very exciting. Who would have thought you could flick a switch and turn your desktop app into an internet app?? It was all going to be just soooo easy...

The next year the 1998 Oz DevCon was originally also to be held at the Gazebo hotel but this was changed and it was actually held the Millennium Hotel (not The President's Hotel) in late March. Presenters included Bruce Johnson (a much appreciated regular in Australia...), Erik Pepping, Scott Ferret and Gus Greces. A sales guy from Topspeed called Antonio Rajan managed to antagonise nearly everyone with his session but fortunately none of his "future directions" such as dumping the desktop development environment and becoming an "Internet company", and changing the name from Clarion ever came to fruition... well so far anyway...

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*Posted on Tuesday, March 03, 2009 by Paul MacFarlane*

I believe the '95 devcon was in Los Angeles at a Hotel near LAX. I was trying to get there but had a conflict.