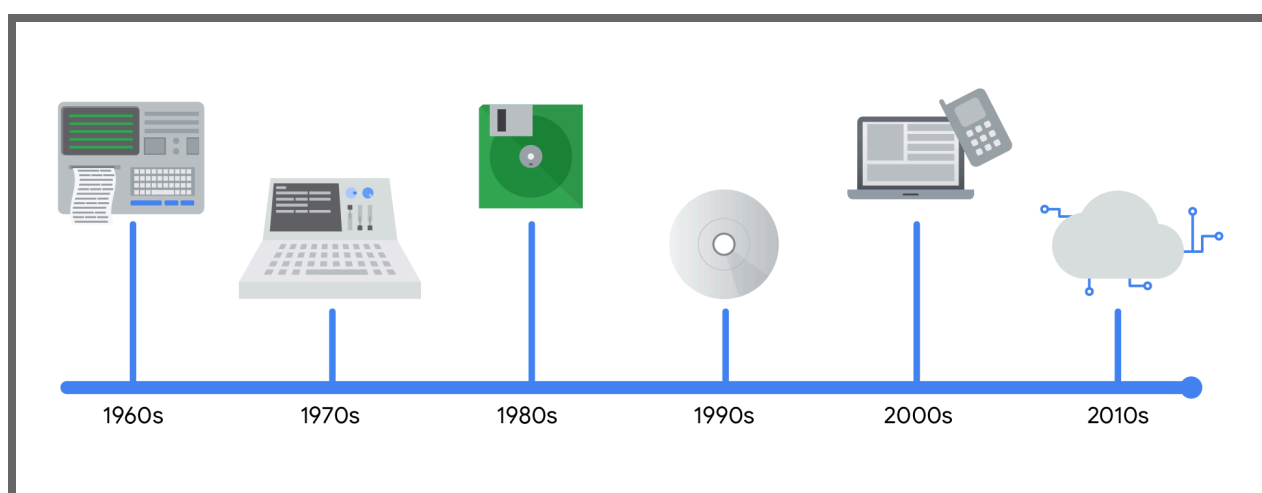# The history of cloud computing

So far, you've learned about cloud computing and the role of a cloud data professional. As a refresher, cloud computing is the practice of using on-demand computing resources as services hosted over the internet. Just like the rest of the data science field, cloud computing has had a long history. A lot of amazing innovations had to happen for cloud computing to exist as we know it today. In this reading, you'll learn about the basic history of cloud computing, and the impact of its development on the field.

1960s

In the 1960s, computers were still room-sized, and to operate them, users had to save complex mathematical operations onto magnetic cards and print the results. In the background, data professionals were thinking of ways to develop cloud computing systems. During this time, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was given funding to develop a computer multiple people could use. Their goal was to create a computer that two or three people could use at once.

1970s

In the 1970s, virtual machines were conceptualized, created, and developed. And the world's first commercially available local area network was established. During this time, the cloud symbol was used to represent networks of computing equipment in the original ARPANET.

1980s

In the 1980s, the development of the network file system protocol began, enabling users to access files over a network. This development had a huge impact on how professionals thought about data accessibility.

1990s

In the 1990s, shared computing became more popular, while industries like telecommunications began to recognize the benefits of shared computing. By the end of the decade, many companies were using shared computing. Thanks to new technologies, and the innovations of data scientists, computer systems' infrastructure, platforms, and applications were optimized to better prioritize tasks executed by the system.

2000s

In the 2000s, more companies were building cloud computing tools. For example, Google Docs, which allows users to create, edit, and save documents online, was released in 2006. More organizations like universities were discovering the processing power of these shared systems, allowing them to analyze large datasets faster, and with fewer resources.

2010s

While the use of cloud computing increased in the 2000s, it was still mostly available to companies for private, internal use. In the 2010s, the need for safe, secure public cloud computing tools became more of a priority. Cloud computing tools continued to develop, and by the mid 2010s, most tools had all of the basic functions we know and use today. By the end of the 2010s, cloud computing had become a standard system for many businesses working online.

Today and beyond

Today, cloud computing tools are as in-demand as ever. As companies continue to adapt to multinational organization, and remote and offshore work, employees need to be able to access these systems from home. Cloud systems are beneficial for customers, too! As time goes on, it's likely that cloud computing will keep growing, especially as more advancements are made for data storage, analysis, and machine learning in the cloud environment.

Key takeaways

As the technology industry advances, so will cloud computing tools. Understanding the history of cloud computing can help you predict future trends, and embrace innovation throughout your career.