**Evolution of the database**

Databases have evolved dramatically since their inception in the early 1960s. Navigational databases such as the hierarchical database (which relied on a tree-like model and allowed only a one-to-many relationship), and the network database (a more flexible model that allowed multiple relationships), were the original systems used to store and manipulate data. Although simple, these early systems were inflexible. In the 1980s, [relational databases](https://www.oracle.com/il-en/database/what-is-database/#relational) became popular, followed by [object-oriented databases](https://www.oracle.com/il-en/database/what-is-database/#object-oriented) in the 1990s. More recently, [NoSQL databases](https://www.oracle.com/il-en/database/what-is-database/#nosql) came about as a response to the growth of the internet and the need for faster speed and processing of unstructured data. Today, [cloud databases](https://www.oracle.com/il-en/database/what-is-a-cloud-database/) and [self-driving databases](https://www.oracle.com/il-en/database/what-is-database/#autonomous) are breaking new ground when it comes to how data is collected, stored, managed, and utilized.