

## Informix Major Events (prepared by Roger Sippl in December 2005)

### Pre-Company (1977 to 1980)

Roger Sippl and Laura King build Indexed file system (ISAM) product, and report writer for Cromemco as employees. This report writer is the first DBMS report writer for microcomputers and the first software product of any kind for microcomputers written in the C programming language (actually a mixture of YACC, LEX – written by Eric Schmidt while at Bell Labs – and C). Roy Harrington builds the Cromix Unix-like operating system for Cromemco and early networking software based on class he took from Bob Metcalfe while in Stanford graduate program. Roger Sippl designs CRIS, the Cromemco Relational Information System writing hundreds of pages of English language design documents. Cromemco licenses all designs to Sippl as he leaves to start Relational Database Systems, Inc, (RDS) which is destined to be renamed to be renamed Informix.

1980 Relational Database Systems (RDS) is incorporated on Roger Sippl's kitchen table with help of room mate who was an accountant. Documents later fixed by a real lawyer. Sippl sells 10% of the company to his ex-girl friend for \$20,000 (he later wises up and marries her, for other, non-technical, reasons).

1981 Roy Harrington and Laura King join from Cromemco.

1982 Roy Harrington creates and ships C-ISAM as the first indexed file system for the Unix operating system, and the non-SQL version of the Informix relational DBMS product. Bill Hedge creates ACE, the first report writer for a relational database system. Bob Macdonald actually starts to market and sell these products.

1984 Altos, an OEM of Informix, invests approximately two million dollars in the company for 19% ownership (later to be turned into about twenty million dollars when they sell shortly after the IPO).

1986 RDS changes its name to match its product (since everyone was calling the company by the name of the product) and goes public as Informix Software.

[Editor's note: Additional comments on significant events were deleted from this document as they lacked date information. Information on most of those events is available from other sources and will be incorporated into the Informix timeline based on those sources. LJ 08/2006]

Roger leaves board in 1993 to do venture capital work and start other companies. Venture work includes Vantive, Red Pepper, Illustra, SupportSoft, TimesTen and others. Other companies started include Visigenic (pioneered applications servers and went public) and Above All Software (which is pioneering composite applications).