

Way back in early 90s *GW BASIC* (*Gee-Whiz Beginners' All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code*) was the flavor of first time programmers. Everyone must have tried the “Hello World” program at least once in those days. In big corporations with Main-Frames *COBOL* language was used extensively for the system automations. Small enterprises acquired more affordable Intel powered Microcomputer with Microsoft Disk Operating System (*MS DOS*) as its OS. However, *GW BASIC* was never commercially that popular and its usage was limited to academics and research. Yes, it is worth mentioning Lotus 123 spreadsheets (the conceptual predecessor of Microsoft Excel) back then *Lotus 123* was heavily used for calculations, preparing registers, reports and even accounts.

Let me assert, during that time the IT industry in India was at least a decade behind the United States where all these inventions were happening. Among various reasons, top 2 reasons are: the IT workforce was yet to be ready and the industry too was slowly waking up to this new IT revolution.

The User Interface (UI) for both application and Development Environments (DE) used to be Character Based. Text Editors were used to write codes for UIs, Reports and back end processes.

At that point of time some ground-breaking innovations were about to unfold that changed the IT world forever. Dbase, Fox Base and Foxpro were reigning over the mass market with table based database and proprietary compiler. Microsoft launched Visual Studio Integrated Development Environment (IDE) with Visual Basic version 6, a Graphical User Interface (GUI) based IDE and Compiler. Though Apple Macintosh offered GUI solutions much earlier but nobody marketed that like Microsoft. That is the time when end users started to realise the possibilities of visual computing.

During the same time then recently rechristened Oracle Corporation too aggressively launched its own Database bound GUI based IDE. Oracle’s Database product was more popular than any other products in their offering while developers chose Visual Studio as the ultimate GUI IDE.

Over next few years the entire Foxpro market was taken over by these two IT giants implementing Client Server architecture with 2 tiers or with an additional second tier called business logic tier.

The emergence of web technologies and web based application empowered with Sun Microsystem's open source Java, Web Browsers, and HTML etc. opened up completely new dimensions in application development.

By that time the Indian IT industry was not too far behind. The www and internet access made it possible to acquire knowledge for the workforce in India to be in synch and at par with the IT superpowers.

Microsoft was always on a higher pedestal with Windows operating Systems, GUI based MS Office Bundle Suite and Visual Studio IDE. At the same time Oracle Corporation was quite strong with its Database offering. The Web Technologies enhanced the possibilities beyond Visual computing conventional design and architecture.

In the next couple of years new technology giants such as Apple and Google emerged with brand new product and service offerings in the technology space.

The Application Development has travelled from Min/MainFrame computers to Microcomputer PCs then from Desktop Clients to Web Clients and now iOS and Andriod Apps. Computing first became Visual Computing then Web, Cloud and Mobile Computing.

**Disclaimer:** This encompasses just one prejudiced aspect of IT Industry and 90s story of IT revolution.