

УДК 004.7

Oleksii Pestov¹, Olga Adamenko²

¹student of group CST-519 National University “Zaporizhzhia Polytechnic”

²PhD (Philology), assistant professor National University “Zaporizhzhia Polytechnic”

WINDOWS: THE BIRTH, THE RISE, THE FALL

Nowadays most people are sure about the existence of the two “titans” of the operating system world: Windows and MacOS. Though Windows has its downsides, the popularity of this commercial giant is simply tremendous.

The firstborn of Microsoft is not Windows, but MS-DOS: a command line operated OS, a common thing in the 1980s. Windows itself is at first mentioned as a graphical interface for MS-DOS. Considering that it was something new, Windows was met with critique.

Time flew, and in 1990 Windows 3.0 came out. The graphical interface allowed to work with data through obvious actions with the graphical representation of it. Moreover, the work with different peripherals in Windows was better organized. Additionally, the users gained an ability to work with several programs at a time and got used to it, establishing the popularity of the system.

Meanwhile, a completely separate OS was being developed – Windows NT (New Technologies). Its main task was to provide a high level of reliability and effective networking. Thus, Windows budded off MS-DOS and began its own life.

By 1995 more and more common people had started to be in touch with technology. Having that in mind, Microsoft released their next creation – Windows 95. The first steps into the Internet era were made. Moreover, the interface was more user-friendly. Looking for it to be as intuitive, as possible, Microsoft created what we would call a typical Windows UI: a desktop with icons, a sidebar with running apps and the famous “Start” button. This was used as a “mold” for many future versions of Windows and even other operating systems.

In the year 2000 two new systems came out almost simultaneously: Windows 2000 and Windows Me (Millennium Edition). Windows 2000 was based on NT, and thus had a great security and performance. On the other hand, Windows Me was like an expanded version of Windows 98 with an improved multimedia support. Though it might seem not so bad on paper, Me was a complete disaster due to constant errors, crashes and overall instability.

As a result, a year later Windows XP appeared on the horizon. Based on the NT's core, it had an incredible stability and efficiency in comparison to all previous versions. Surprisingly, Windows XP became so successful, that even in the end of 2008 it was still occupying almost 70% of the OS market.

In 2007 Windows Vista came out. Based on a high-performance core, it was too demanding in terms of system resources. The driver incompatibility and high system requirements couldn't be accepted by consumers.

In 2009 Microsoft released Windows 7. The UI completely resembled Vista's, but Microsoft fixed all the sins of Vista and called it Windows 7. This way people got a highly optimized, fast and reliable system. By 2012 Windows 7 had become the most popular OS in the world. Windows 7 took up what XP had been for all these long years – the main operating system, that “just works”, doesn't freeze and has little to no driver issues.

Losing the race in the mobile market, Microsoft craved for a new product to unite all kinds of devices within the same interface. The solution seemed to be on the surface: the new so called “Metro UI” was at first implemented in Windows 8. For the first time Microsoft decided to completely change the interface. The users were greeted with the new “tiles” instead of the usual Desktop. The “Start” button shockingly disappeared. As a result, the rates of this operating system on the OS market didn't manage to climb much higher than 20%.

In 2015 Windows 10 was released. The “Start” menu came back and resembled Windows 7's in a more modern way. Microsoft Edge was implemented instead of Internet Explorer. It's quicker and more comfortable, but the majority still prefers Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox.

We can't speak about Windows 10 and not mention the telemetry. By clicking “I agree” on the license agreement, the user essentially allows Microsoft to spy on them. Data gathering not only invades the user's private space, but loads the CPU as well. It has come to the point, where some users prefer to pirate the OS only to get rid of the telemetry.

For the entirety of its history Microsoft has been trying to make their creation more user-friendly. It's not a wrong commercial move – Windows 10 holds more than 50% of the OS market consistently. But the user data gathering hinders their reputation. So, either Microsoft will change and remain on their throne, or we'll witness another story like this with a different main character.