1969 The Beginning
The history of UNIX starts back in 1969, when Ken Thompson, Dennis Ritchie and others started working on the "little-used PDP-7 in a corner" at Bell Labs and what was to become UNIX.

1971 First Edition
It had an assembler for a PDP-11/20, file system, fork(), roff and ed. It was used for text processing of patent documents.

1972 First UNIX Installations
The first installations had 3 users, no memory protection, and a 500 KB disk.

1973 Fourth Edition
UNIX leaves home. Also widely known as Version 6, this is the first to be widely available outside of Bell Labs. The first BSD version (1.x) was derived from V6.

1975 Sixth Edition
It was an "improvement over all preceding and following Unices" [Bourne]. It had C, UUCP and the Bourne shell. It was ported to the VAX and the kernel was more than 40 Kilobytes (K).

1979 Seventh Edition
One of the stalwarts of the group was Armando P. Stettner. Armando was a UNIX system devotee. He lived and he breathed the UNIX system. When he got his new car, it was natural that he got a UNIX system.

1980 Xenix
Microsoft introduces Xenix. 32V and 4BSD introduced.

1982 System III
AT&T's UNIX System Group (USG) release System III, the first public release outside Bell Laboratories. SunOS 1.0 ships. HP-UX introduced. Ulitrix-11 introduced.

1983 System V
Computer Research Group, UNIX System Group (USG) and a third group merge to become UNIX System Development Lab. AT&T announces UNIX System V, the first supported release. Installed base 45,000.

1984 4.2BSD
University of California at Berkeley releases 4.2BSD, includes TCP/IP, new signals and much more. X/Open formed.

1984 SVR2
System V Release 2 introduced. At this time there are 100,000 UNIX installations around the world.

1986 4.3BSD
4.3BSD released, including internet name server. SVR4.2 introduced. NFS shipped. AIX announced. Installed base 250,000.

1987 SVR3
System V Release 3 including STREAMS, TLL, RFS. At this time there are 750,000 UNIX installations around the world. IRIX introduced.

1988 POSIX.1 published. Open Software Foundation (OSF) and UNIX International (UI) formed. Ulitrix 4.2 ships.

1989 AT&T UNIX Software Operation formed in preparation for spinoff of UNIX development group. Motif 1.0 ships.

1989 SVR4
UNIX System V Release 4 ships, unifing System V, BSD and Xenix. Installed base 1.2 million.

1990 XPG3
X/Open launches XPG3 Brand. OSF/1 debuts. Plan 9 from Bell Labs ships.

1991 UNIX System Laboratories (USL) becomes a company owned by DEC.
LiPoS formed commences Linux development.
Solars 1.0 debuts.

1992 SVR4.2
USL releases UNIX System V Release 4.2 (Destiny). October - XPG4 Brand launched by X/Open. December 22nd - Novell announces intent to acquire USL. Solaris 2.0 and HP-UX 9.0 ship.

1993 4.4BSD
The Open Group forms as a merger of the Open Software Foundation (OSF) and X/Open. UnixWare 2.1, HP-UX 10.20 and IRIX 6.2 ship.

1994 Single UNIX Specification
BSD 4.4-Lite eliminated all code claimed to infringe on USL-Novell. As the owner of the UNIX trademark, X/Open introduces the Single UNIX Specification (formerly Spec 1170) which separates the UNIX trademark from any actual code stream itself, thus allowing multiple implementations.

1995 UNIX 95
X/Open introduces the UNIX 95 branding program for implementations of the Single UNIX Specification. Novell sells UnixWare business to SCO. Digital UNIX introduced. UnixWare 2.6 ships. OpenServer 5.0 ships.

1996 The Open Group introduces the UNIX 95 family of brands, including Base, Workstation and Server. First UNIX 95 registered products shipped by Sun, IBM and NCR. The Open Source movement starts to take off with announcements from Netscape and IBM. UNIX 95 and IRIX 6.5 ship.

The Open Group introduces Version 2 of the Single UNIX Specification, including support for real-time, threads and 64-bit and larger processors. The specification is made freely available on the web. IRIX 6.4, AIX 4.3 and HP-UX 11 ship.

1998 UNIX 98
The Open Group introduces the UNIX 98 family of brands, including Base, Workstation and Server. First UNIX 98 registered products shipped by Sun, IBM and NCR. The Open Source movement starts to take off with announcements from Netscape and IBM. UNIX 98 and IRIX 6.5 ship.

1999 UNIX at 30


2003 ISO/IEC 9945
The core versions of Volume 3 of the Single UNIX Specification are approved as an international standard. "Westwood" test suites shipped for UNIX 03 brand. Solaris 9.0 E ships. Linux 2.6 kernel released.