

Multics.

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Topics

- What is Multics?
- Brief History
- Notable Features of Multics
- Influence on Other Systems
- Review
- Sources

MULTiplexed **I**nformation and **C**omputing **S**ervice

- Multics is a timesharing OS begun in 1965 and used until 2000.
- Primary usage was with a mainframe and multiple terminals.
- CPUs, memory, I/O controllers, disk drives could be added or removed while the system is running

MULTiplexed **I**nformation and **C**omputing **S**ervice

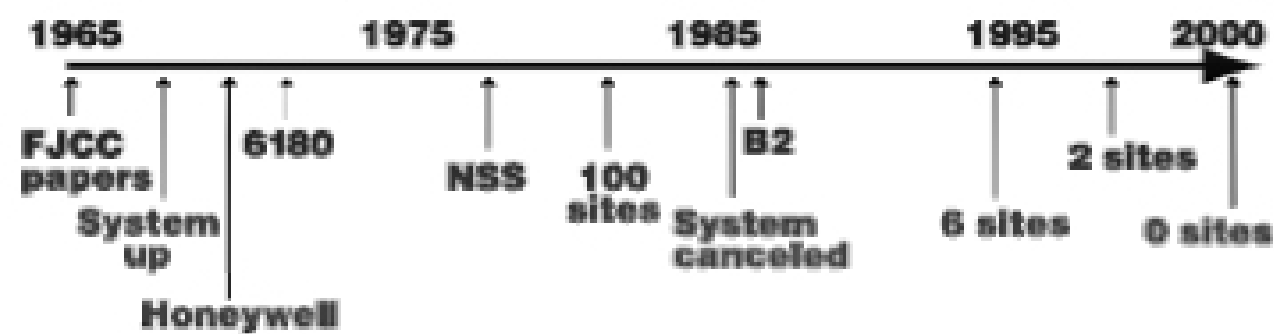
- Designed to run 24/7
- Changed the idea of the computer from being a tool for scientists to a reliable and powerful resource for a large number of people



"Multics keeps it up longer"

Brief History

- Joint project between MIT, Bell Labs, and GE
- Bell labs withdrew in 1969
- GE Sold its computer business to Honeywell in 1970 who sold Multics as a commercial product



Features

- High-level language implementation
- On-line reconfiguration
- Large virtual memory with segments, paging, and generalized addresses
- First hierarchical file system
- Dynamic linking and function call by name
- Shared memory multiprocessor
- Security and rings