

1.5: Summary

In this chapter, you have been introduced to information systems. We have reviewed several definitions, focusing on information systems components: technology (hardware, software, data, networking communication), people, and process. Information systems (IS) have evolved over time from early computers like the Model K adder in the 1930s to today's smartphones and tablets. Key developments include mainframe computers in the 1950s-60s, personal computers in the 1970s-80s, networking and the Internet in the 1980s-90s, Web 2.0 and mobile computing in the 2000s, and emerging technologies like AI and the metaverse today.

As each phase progressed, technological advancements enabled companies and individuals to incorporate technology more extensively. Hardware has become progressively smaller, faster, and cheaper over time. Software has also advanced from early programming languages to today's complex operating systems and applications.

It is a foregone conclusion that almost all if not all, companies are using information systems. Yet, history also has shown us that some companies are very successful and some are failures. By completing this book, you should understand the role of IS has shifted from mainly organizational efficiency to strategic advantage. Companies like Walmart and Amazon have used IS innovations to transform industries. Networking capabilities converted computers from computation devices to communications tools. The Internet, web browsers, and interactive sites like Web 2.0 changed how individuals and companies operate. Information systems continue to evolve. Emerging trends include cloud computing, big data analytics, Internet of Things, and artificial intelligence.

In just 71 years, we have seen the first computer, Univac I, going from 29000 pounds and cost about \$1M each to today's devices such as Apple's iPhone, weighing about 200g and costing about \$1500, and with significantly more computing power than the Univac I Figure 1.5.1. Can you imagine what advances we will see in the next 70 years?

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