

History

In 1994, Clarion Software, internationally known for its advanced programming, database and compiler products, changed its name to TopSpeed Corporation. The TopSpeed name provides a unique, registrable trademark, which perfectly describes the benefit of our product line as a whole. We help software developers produce software applications at *top speed*; and these applications perform at *top speed*, too.

In late 1983, Clarion Software began creating a new language and development system that supported structured application design within a modern programming environment.

Bruce D. Barrington, who previously founded the health services computing firm, HBO & Company, founded Clarion, and continues to lead the company. He is the chief architect of the Clarion language, and continues to guide the development of the product line.

In April, 1986, Clarion introduced its flagship product: Clarion Version 1.0. In May, 1988 Clarion renamed the product and began shipping Clarion Professional Developer (CPD) Version 2.0.



Clarion Professional Developer

Versions 2.0 and 2.1 were immense successes, immediately gaining acceptance from the market as the leader in high-end programmable database managers. CPD received critical acclaim. PC Magazine awarded CPD an *Editor's Choice*. InfoWorld rated CPD (along with Paradox) the best programmable database. It won the PC Week *Poll of Corporation Satisfaction* award two years in a row.

In 1990, Clarion Software saw an opportunity to create a revolutionary new product that would merge compiler and database technologies into a cutting edge development system.

Jensen and Partners, International (JPI), headed by Niels Jensen, original founder of Borland International, Ltd., and whose programming team included the authors of Borland's *SideKick*, and the integrated development environment in Borland's *Turbo Pascal*, had developed a line of compilers for Modula-2, C, C++, and Pascal. The line was called *TopSpeed*.

JPI developed a common optimizing code generator and project system. The TopSpeed compiler line implemented each programming language as a "surface" on the core technology. This architecture made multi-language development seamless, since object files from the different compilers were indistinguishable.

The implications for Clarion were clear: by writing a Clarion language "surface" we could create a perfectly compatible member of the TopSpeed family. For the first time, a program produced by a 4GL would perform *identically* to a program written in C. In real terms, this meant that programs written by Clarion developers would run faster, and require less disk space.

Clarion Software licensed the TopSpeed technology, and incorporated it into a new product called Clarion Database Developer (CDD) 3.0. In addition to the compiler technology, CDD also improved upon CPD by extracting its code generation logic into a template language. This increased software developers' productivity by generating large portions of their programs' source code *automatically*. CDD also introduced plug and play database drivers, allowing Clarion programmers to access virtually all popular PC database file formats, by simply selecting an option from a list.



Clarion Database Developer

JPI and Clarion worked together as a team and shared the same vision. In May, 1992, the two companies merged. Niels Jensen assumed a position on Clarion Software's Board of Directors. The JPI development group became known as the TopSpeed Development Centre. In September, 1994, Clarion Software changed its name to Top Speed Corporation.

In October, 1994, Top Speed shipped Clarion for Windows, Version 1.0. The product is the first optimized 4GL compiler for Microsoft Windows. The template driven programming environment provides the chief benefit of object oriented programming (OOP) languages—extensive code reusability—without the extensive learning curve usually associated with OOP. The development environment features visual design tools and support for Visual Basic Custom Controls (.VBX libraries). Upon its launch, InfoWorld headlined its "First Look" feature article "Clarion for Windows a must-have for developers."

