Datacom
50 years in the making

1962
First minicomputer
Lincoln Laboratory builds the LINC PC, to the great interest of the scientific community. It is widely accepted as the first minicomputer.

1963
Digital releases PDP-5
Digital (DEC) uses a stripped-down version of the basic LINC to produce the PDP-5, which was low-cost for the time at US$27,000. While only 116 were produced, the PDP-5 inspired a number of better-known computers.

1965
ICL 1900 series computers
ICL 1900 series is released. The 1902 mainframe computer ordered by Datacom is from International Computers and Tabulators, one of the few non-American competitors to IBM.

1965
Datacom founded
Young accountant Paul Hargreaves founds Datacom in Christchurch, along with the late Dr Bernard Battersby. The company is then called Computer Bureau Limited. A group of clients put up £30,000 capital for the company and an order is placed for an ICL 1902 computer, which doesn't arrive in New Zealand for a year.

Paul Hargreaves, Datacom founder

1968
Expansion into Wellington
The company becomes CBL and expands into Wellington. It forms around a group of local companies, which become shareholders.

1969
Expansion into Hamilton

1970
Expansion into Auckland
Hargreaves leaves his family's accounting firm to become a full-time executive for CBL. The company also expands into Auckland through the acquisition of Fletcher Computer Bureau.

1971
Holding company established
A holding company is established – today known as Datacom Group – and takes up shares in the four separate companies in Christchurch, Wellington, Hamilton and Auckland. Hargreaves becomes executive director.

CCL Board: John Holdsworth, George Tuffin, Merrill Holdsworth, Denis Rowe

1971
Commercial microprocessors
Intel revolutionises computing by releasing the first commercial microprocessors, making computers smaller and faster.

1974
COBOL payroll launches

1977
Home computing
Pre-assembled computers such as the Apple II begin hitting the market, paving the way for home computing.

1979
Oracle's first SQL
Oracle offers the first commercial SQL relational database management system.

1981
MS-DOS is released
MS-DOS, the first Microsoft operating system, is released on the IBM personal computer.

1981
Datacom introduces User-11 to New Zealand
Datacom introduces the first 4GL to the market. The software development business flourishes.

1983
DEC home PCs
DEC responds to the IBM PC by releasing three of its own home computers.

1983
Microsoft launches Windows 1.0

1983
Datacom brings Oracle database technology to New Zealand
Datacom introduces the technology to the NZ Dairy Company – now Fonterra.

1984
CBL becomes Datacom

1989
The internet in New Zealand
A cable is built that connects the University of Waikato to the world. Actrix, the first ISP, launches and offers dial-up services to New Zealanders.

1989
Merger with CCL
Datacom merges with CCL computing services company and adds payroll and facilities management divisions.

1989
Datacom founder becomes shareholder
One of Datacom's founders, John Holdsworth, becomes the company's majority shareholder and chairman of the board.

John Holdsworth, majority shareholder

Eddie Cornish, CCL Founder

1989
Frank Stephenson becomes CEO
Datacom director of nine years, Frank Stephenson, is appointed CEO.

1991
First large outsourcing contract
Datacom signs its first large outsourcing contract in Auckland with Telecom Directories.

1992
Datacom Wellington absorbs NZ Post's IT department
This is Datacom's first large outsourcing deal in Wellington and boosts staff numbers by 90.

1994
Datacom opens its first office in Australia
Opening in Sydney expands NZ-based services to Microsoft Australia.

1996
Expansion into Asia
Datacom builds contact centres in Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand.

1997
Datacom's first managed services contract in Australia
The contract is signed with P&O Services, with a large part of service delivered from New Zealand.

2000s
Personal computing
The widespread availability of personal computers and broadband internet means cloud computing begins to gain in popularity.

2000
Cloud payroll roll out
Datacom launches Netpay, its first cloud payroll product in New Zealand.

2000
Datacom opens in Melbourne
Datacom operates out of a small shared office in Melbourne.

2002
Asia operations transformed
Michael Browne consolidates Datacom Asia into Malaysia.

2003
Acquisition of Connect Interactive Business Systems
The acquisition merges the contact centre businesses and creates the process division now known as Datacom Connect.

2004
Gold Coast business begins
Datacom acquires a business on the Gold Coast and begins operating in the area.

2005
Datacom acquires NetOptions
Through the acquisition of Brisbane service provider NetOptions, Datacom becomes firmly established in Queensland.

2006
Datacom expands into South Australia

Kapua data centre which opened in Hamilton in 2013

2007
CEO Frank Stephenson passes away
New Zealand CEO Frank Stephenson, who ran and grew Datacom New Zealand for 18 years, passes away.

2007
Datacom expands into Western Australia
Datacom expands into Western Australia and acquires a third data centre in Sydney, through Hansen Professional Services, and a company called Relate to extend application and web capability.

2007
Apple launches the first iPhone
The launch begins the era of the smartphone, which quickly becomes one of the biggest product categories in consumer technology. Later, Apple launches the first iPad and popularises tablet computing.

2007
Expansion into Townsville
With the acquisition of Agire, Datacom expands into Townsville, Northern Queensland.

2008
Canberra, ACT, office opens

2009
Expansion into the Philippines

2009
Orbit data centre opens in Auckland

Prime Minister John Key at Orbit data centre opening

2010
Michael Browne's contribution to Datacom
Michael Browne, with Datacom since 1992, becomes Datacom's Group CEO. Browne passed away later that year.

2010
Jonathan Ladd appointed group CEO
Jonathan Ladd had been a director on the Datacom Group Board for four years and continues to be today.

Jonathan Ladd, Group CEO

2010
Perth data centre opens

2010
Christchurch data centre opens
Christchurch data centre opens a week before the big September quake and stays open throughout the thousands of aftershocks that follow.

2011
Exponential growth
Datacom sees employee numbers hit more than 4000 across the group.

2011
Datacom VMware Cloud launches

2011
Technology centre opens in Queensland

2012
New Zealand Post sells 35% stake in Datacom to New Zealand Superannuation Fund
The New Zealand Superannuation Fund invests globally to help pre-fund New Zealanders' superannuation entitlements. The fund is managed by a Crown entity.

2012
Datacom acquires Victoria business
Datacom acquires a specialist human capital management and SAP consulting business in Victoria, which enhances our enterprise people, payroll and talent management portfolio in the region.

2013
John Holdsworth steps down from board
John Holdsworth relinquishes chairmanship and the Holdsworth's family remains the majority Datacom shareholder.

2013
Kapua data centre opens
The centre in Hamilton opens and the first halls are quickly taken up.

2013
Asia contact centre business sold
Datacom sells its Asia contact centres, but continues to service the region with higher-level IT services.

2013
Datacom acquisitions
Datacom acquires Tauranga-based company Origen Technologies, which specialises in creating software for local government. The company also acquires IP and assets from XciteLogic.

2014
Datacom takes a stake in SmartWard
Datacom acquires a 20% stake in health informatics company SmartWard; its software solution is designed to save medical professionals time and increase patient care.

2014
Cobol engine switched off as cloud dominates payroll

2014
Datacom approaches its 50th year