

Preface

There's a good reason that SQL Anywhere has over 70% of the mobile database market. In fact, there are several good reasons: It's easy to use, easy to administer, and it doesn't take up much space. Those are all good things if you're trying to deploy hundreds or thousands of databases. And they're good things to have if you're trying to embed relational databases inside tens of thousands of routers or switches or other hardware devices.

But SQL Anywhere isn't just for mobile and embedded databases; it's got the features and the flexibility to work as a network server with hundreds of active users pounding away on a single database. And it's got a solid foundation and a long history, from its roots with Watcom in the 1980s through to Powersoft and Sybase in the 1990s and now with iAnywhere Solutions in the new millennium.

Through all those years, the SQL Anywhere development team has never strayed from one central virtue; as Richard Williams of VMI Communication and Learning Systems said it, "Watcom does things the way they should be done."

Here's an overview of the history behind SQL Anywhere Studio Version 9:

- **1965** The WATFOR FORTRAN compiler was initially developed for the IBM 7040 at the University of Waterloo.
- **1981** The company Watcom was founded.
- **1988** The PACEBase SQL Database System was released as part of the Watcom Information Workbench. It ran on PCs using DOS, and included ISQL, transaction processing, declarative referential integrity, CREATE TABLE and ALTER TABLE statements, inner joins, subqueries in SELECT lists, multiple user IDs, and a separate rollback file for recovery. This was "Version 1"; no Version 2 was ever released.
- **1992** Watcom SQL 3 became commercially available. It was a multi-user server with row-level locking, a separate transaction log, and multi-table updates. Later versions added Windows 3 support, an ODBC driver, outer joins, DEFAULT values, CHECK constraints, TIME, DATE, and LONG data types, and online backup.
- **1993** Powersoft included Watcom SQL 3.2 in the box with PowerBuilder 3.
- **1994** Powersoft bought Watcom.
- **1994** Watcom SQL 4 was released. It included stored procedures and triggers, cascading updates and deletes, temporary tables, multiple databases in one server, a self-tuning query optimizer, and TCP/IP support.
- **1995** Sybase bought Powersoft.
- **1995** SQL Anywhere 5 was released. It included SQL Remote, SQL Central (now Sybase Central), Transact SQL syntax, and support for the Sybase Replication Server.
- **1996** SQL Anywhere 5.5 was released as a bundled product that included InfoMaker, NetImpact Dynamo (later PowerDynamo), and a plug-in architecture for Sybase Central.