Cisco and the Evolution of Switching

1969 ARPANET, precursor to the Internet, is born.
1972 Ray Tomlinson of BBN creates the first software for email transmissions.
1973 Robert Metcalfe, as part of his Harvard Ph.D. thesis, writes a 13-page description of what will become Ethernet.
1974 Vint Cerf and Robert Kahn publish "A Protocol for Packet Network Internetworking." It's the first time the term "Internet" is used.
1977 Invention of the PC (Apple II in 1977, IBM PC in 1981).
1978 Vint Cerf, Danny Cohen, and Steve Crocker create a plan to separate TCP's routing functions into a separate protocol called the Internet Protocol (IP).
1982 The first PC LAN is demonstrated at the National Computer Conference by Drew Major, Kyle Powell, and Dale Neibaur.
1984 Len Bosack and Sandy Lerner, computer scientists from Stanford University, founded Cisco Systems. They invented the multi-protocol router.
1986 Cisco introduces its first commercial multi-protocol network router, the AGS.
1988 John Morgridge joins Cisco as president and CEO.
1989 With three products and 115 employees, Cisco reports revenues of $27 million.
1990 Cisco goes public on February 16 at $18 a share. ARPANET is decommissioned, leaving behind a vast network of networks called the Internet.
1991 The National Science Foundation lifts restrictions on the commercial use of the NSFNET backbone, clearing way for electronic commerce.
1992 Cisco earns its first patent for its method of routing, based on the IGRP protocol.
1993 Mosaic, the first graphics-based Web browser, becomes available. Traffic on Internet expands at a 341,634 percent growth rate. Cisco introduces the high-end 7000 router and makes its first acquisition, Crescendo Communications, which represents its entry into switching.
1994 Cisco ships its first Ethernet and ATM switches. Cisco acquires Kalpana, Inc., introducing innovation in LAN switching technology. Pizza Hut begins taking orders over the Internet.
1995 Cisco names John Chambers CEO, and ships Catalyst 5000 switch. Cisco acquires Grand Junction Networks, inventors of Fast Ethernet (100BaseT) technology, a standard in today's corporate networks.
1996 Telecommunications Reform Act is passed. Cisco releases the AS5200 for dial up modem access to the Internet. Cisco acquires Granite Systems for Gigabit Ethernet Switching and Stratacom Networks, a WAN Switching innovator.
1997 Cisco sells the one millionth 2500 series router. Cisco introduces Gigabit Ethernet and Layer 3 routing in switches. The Internet2 national research project is launched.
1998 Cisco delivers first data-over-cable system interface specification (DOCSIS) for cable modems. Cisco also starts deploying its AVVID (Architecture for Voice, Video & Integrated Data) Cisco introduces QoS (Quality-of-Service) to LAN Switches.
1999 Cisco earns key patents for voice-over-IP communications. The Cisco 1600 becomes the fastest selling router in company history. Cisco introduces the Catalyst 4000 and Catalyst 6000 series of modular Gigabit Chassis Switches.
2000 IP v6 debuts. Cisco introduces industry's first IP telephony services integration into chassis switch. Introduces Catalyst 4006 and brings in-line power to the mid-market.
2001 Multiprotocol label switching (MPLS) standard introduced. Cisco introduces industry's first 10GbE interface in LAN switch, Catalyst 6500, and the Catalyst 3550 layer 3 switch.
2002 Cisco introduces Catalyst 4500 series switches, bringing resiliency & control to the mid-market. Cisco ships one millionth 10/100/1000 port.
2003 Cisco introduces the Catalyst 3750 and third generation switching functionality for its Catalyst 6500, extending platform performance to 720Gbps and 400Mpps.