

[anagrams](#)[crosswords](#)[wikipedia](#)[Ebay](#)**definition - opcode systems**[definition](#) of Wikipedia

Advertisizing ▼

Wikipedia

**Opcode Systems**

update

**Opcode Systems, Inc.** was founded in 1985 by Dave Oppenheim and based in and around Palo Alto, California, USA. Opcode produced **MIDI** sequencing software for the **Mac OS** and **Microsoft Windows**, which would later include **digital audio** capabilities, as well as audio and MIDI hardware interfaces. Opcode's MIDIMAC sequencer, launched in 1986, was the first commercially available MIDI sequencer for the Macintosh computer and one of the first commercially available music sequencers on any commercial computer platform.

At the time Opcode went under, the Studio Vision sequencer was at the front of the pack, with arguably the best MIDI editor written to this day.

Their most notable software titles include:

- **Vision** (a MIDI-only sequencer)
- **Studio Vision** (a full sequencer, including digital audio)
- **Galaxy** (a patch editor and librarian)
- **OMS** (a MIDI-interface environment)
- **Max** (a graphical development environment)

In 1998, Opcode was bought by **Gibson Guitar Corporation**. Development on Opcode products ceased in 1999.<sup>[1]</sup>

Some of Opcode's ex-employees went on to be part of **Apple's Mac OS X Core Audio** and MIDI software development.

## Detailed History

In 1985, Stanford University graduate Dave Oppenheim founded Opcode. Dave was the majority partner, focusing on Research & Development, with Gary Briber the minority partner focusing on Sales & Marketing.

In 1986, two major products were released. One was the MIDIMAC Sequencer, which later became the Opcode Sequencer and, eventually, Vision. The other was the MIDIMAC interface for the Macintosh computer. These products allowed musicians to use the Macintosh platform for music sequencing and were utilized by electronic music pioneers such as **Herbie Hancock**, **Wendy Carlos**, **Thomas Dolby**, and others.

In 1986, music software programmer David Zicarelli licensed his Editor/Librarian for the Yamaha DX-7 to Opcode, which published this product. At its peak, Opcode would market over ten separate Editor/Librarians, software programs designed to facilitate the editing of sound patches for digital synthesizers and the storage and organization of those patches on a personal computer.

In 1987, Gary Briber sold his portion of the company, with Sales and Marketing responsibilities falling upon Keith Borman and Paul DiBenedictis, respectively.

In 1989, Opcode introduced Vision, its award-winning sequencing platform for the Macintosh (and, eventually, Windows

computers as well). A simplified version, EZ Vision, was soon released.<sup>[2]</sup> EZ Vision's successor, MusicShop, included a simple notation view - a first in a sequencing product in that price range (roughly \$100 US).

Also in 1989, it licensed the computer music authoring system **Max** from IRCAM, where it had been developed academically by Miller Puckette. Opcode began selling a commercial version of the program in 1990, developed and extended by David Zicarelli. Never a perfect fit for Opcode Systems, active development on the software ceased in the mid-90s. The current commercial version of Max has since been maintained and distributed by Zicarelli's company, **Cycling '74** (founded in 1997), since 1999.

In 1990, Opcode introduced StudioVision, which added digital audio recording (using Digidesign's digital audio hardware) to Vision's recording and editing platform. StudioVision was the first-ever commercially available product integrating MIDI sequencing and digital audio editing and recording on a personal computer. A version called VisionDSP was released just before the company folded.

Opcode's hardware products included a line of serial MIDI interfaces which included the Studio 3, Studio 4, Studio 5, Studio 64X and 128X, as well as USB interfaces including the DATport, SONICport, MIDIport and STUDIOport lines.<sup>[3]</sup>

## References

- <sup>1.</sup> <sup>^</sup> [Harmony Central News](#)
- <sup>2.</sup> <sup>^</sup> [R.L. Blevins, Computer Music Journal, Vol. 14, No. 1, New Performance Interfaces 1 (Spring, 1990), pp. 82-85]
- <sup>3.</sup> <sup>^</sup> [Harmony Central](#)

Categories:

- [MIDI](#)

This entry is from Wikipedia, the leading user-contributed encyclopedia. It may not have been reviewed by professional editors (see [full disclaimer](#))

[Donate to Wikimedia](#)

[➔ All translations of opcode systems](#)

---

[Contact Us](#) | [Company Information](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | [Last modifications](#)

Copyright © 2012 sensagent Corporation: Online Encyclopedia, Thesaurus, Dictionary definitions and more. All rights reserved.  
[synonym](#) - [definition](#) - [dictionary](#) - [define](#) - [translation](#) - [translate](#) - [translator](#) - [conjugation](#) - [anagram](#)