WOMEN IN MAINFRAME: THE LEGACY OF INNOVATION CONTINUES



The mainframe has a long history of female trailblazers, with a legacy that continues through to today. Several women played a crucial role in the development of COBOL. Rear Admiral Grace Hopper's championing of a computer language based on English words led to the creation of the FLOW-MATIC language, leading to her service as a technical consultant to the committee that defined COBOL in 1959. The sub-committee which created most of the new language's specifications included both Gertrude Tierney of IBM and Jean E. Sammet of Sylvania.

At BMC, we're proud of our history of continuous innovation. Women's History Month presents a great opportunity to reflect on the women who have carried on the legacy of Grace Hopper, Gertrude Tierney, Jean Sammet, and others by receiving patents for the innovations they contributed to BMC's solutions.

Being recognized for unique and groundbreaking contributions is quite an honor and a source of pride for the rest of one's career. Senior Product Manager Irene Ford received patents in 2007 and 2010 for solutions that enable customers to mask sensitive data without writing custom programs. Reflecting on the experience, Irene says, "As I look back on this today, I am proud to have been able to work so closely with our amazing development team not only on these patents but also on the work we do every day to make our tools better for our customers."

Sixteen women have been granted patents for their mainframe innovations at BMC:

Linda S. Ball (2001, 2006 & 2010)
Carla C. Birk (1997 & 2001)
Donna M. Di Carlo (2012)

Catherine Drummond (2022, 2024 & 2025)
Linda C. Elliott (2000)
Irene Ford (2007 & 2010)
Carol Harper (1988, 1989 & 1992)
Roxanne Kallman (2020, 2022, 2024 & 2025)
Karen Nelson-Katt (1998)
Lisa S. Keeler (2000)
Annette B. McCall (1995)
Dori Polotsky (2022)
Pradnya Shah (2002)
Melody Vos (2005, 2006, 2007, 2012, 2015)
Lori Walbeck (2020 & 2021)
Wenjie Zhu (2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025)

Here is the list of women who currently have patent applications pending:

Catherine Drummond
Roxanne Kallman
Dori Polotsky
Pradnya Shah
Wenjie Zhu

I'd also like to take this opportunity to recognize our colleagues from other business units who have received patents:

Tamar Admon (2013)
Kalpa Ashhar (2016 & 2018)
Michal Barak (2025)
Maribeth Carpenter (2023)
Jiani Chen (2015, 2017, 2019 & 2020)
Gwendolyn Curlee (2023)
Kanika Dhyani (2015, 2016, 2020 & 2023)
Priyanka Jain (2020)
Nitsan Daniel Lavie (2019, 2020 & 2024)
Donna S. Lowe-Cleveland (2005)
Pallavi Phadke (2018 & 2019)
Soumee Phatak (2020)
Komal Padmawar (2025)
Carol Rathrock (1998)
Komal K. Shah (2014)
Annie Shum (2008)
Jeyashree Sivasubramanian (2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023 & 2025)
Cynthia L. Sturgeon (2006, 2014, 2017 & 2018)
Priya Saurabh Talwalkar (2023)
Elaine Tang (2022)

Patent filings for Komal Padmawar, Jennifer Glenski, Jeyashree Sivasubramanian, and Priya Saurabh Talwalkar are currently pending.

At BMC, we're proud of our history of innovation and of the role that our female employees have

played in making that innovation possible. We look forward to continuing to create solutions that serve our customers and move the industry forward with contributions from both current employees and future generations.