

## What was Omnis 7

**Omnis 7** was a popular cross-platform **Integrated Development Environment (IDE)** and **Rapid Application Development (RAD)** tool used primarily in the 1990s.

Developed by **Blyth Software** (later renamed **Omnis Software**), it was designed to help programmers build complex client/server database applications that could run on both Microsoft Windows and Apple Macintosh without needing to rewrite the code for each system.

### Key Features of Omnis 7

- **Cross-Platform Compatibility:** One of its biggest selling points was the "write once, run anywhere" (within the Windows/Mac ecosystem) capability, which was quite revolutionary for the early '90s.
- **Database Connectivity:** It provided robust access to industry-standard SQL databases like Oracle, Sybase, and Informix.
- **Dot Notation:** Version 2 introduced "dot notation" (e.g., `object.property`), moving the environment closer to modern object-oriented programming standards.
- **4GL (Fourth-Generation Language):** It used a high-level programming language that allowed developers to create functional interfaces and business logic much faster than with lower-level languages like C.

### A Brief History

- **1991–1992:** Released as the successor to Omnis 5. Version 1 hit the Mac in late 1991 and Windows in early 1992.
- **Mid-90s Dominance:** It became a staple for enterprise developers building internal business tools, such as accounting software or inventory management systems.
- **The Transition:** In 1997, the company released **Omnis Studio**, which was a complete rewrite, focused on object-oriented programming. While Omnis 7 was maintained for some years (up to version 7.3), most developers eventually migrated to Studio.

### Is it still around?

Technically, yes—but as a legacy system. While you won't find many people starting *new* projects in Omnis 7 today, there are still "Omnis Classic" applications running in older business environments. The modern successor, **Omnis Studio**, is still active today and is used for web and mobile app development.