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Display, satisfied customers seen awong seev. Of course, the most impressive thing about your tenure at IBM has been your ability to ignore the nattering nabobs. Just 18 months before you signed on, I wrote a column predicting the death of the mainframe. (I even predicted that the last one would be unplugged and retired by 1996!) So it was a thrill for me, just one week ago, to pose for your upcoming annual report. Your photographer put me in front of a plate covered by letters spelling out the words DEATH TO THE MAINFRAME. Well, let me metaphorically eat my words now. While those 1991-era mainframes are virtually extinct, it is clear that corporate customers still like to have centrally controlled, very predictable, reliable computing systems-exactly the kind of systems that IBM specializes in. It is also perfectly clear that you were right, and I was wrong. Have fun in retirement!



























