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American multinational technology corporation Microsoft Corporation Logo used since 2012 Aerial view of the Microsoft campus in Redmond Company typePublicTraded asNasdaq: MSFTNasdaq:100 componentJDIA components\$P 100 components\$P 500 componentsSINUS5949181045IndustryInformation technologyPredecessorTraF-O-DataFoundedApril 4, 1975; 50 years ago (1975-04-04) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, U.S. FoundersBill GatesPaul AllenHeadquartersMicrosoft Campus, Redmond, Washington, U.S.FTAA servedWorldwideKey peopleSatya Nadella (chairman & CEO)Brad Smith (vice chairman & president)Bryan Gates (technical advisor)ProductsSoftware developmentComputer hardwareConsumer electronicsSocial networking serviceCloud computingVideo gamesInternetCorporate venture capitalBrands Windows Microsoft 365 Teams Visual Studio Xbox Dynamics Surface Services Edge Azure Bing LinkedIn Viva Engage Microsoft 365 OneDrive Dynamics 365 Outlook GitHub Microsoft Store Windows Update Game Pass Xbox network Revenue US\$281.7 billion (2025)Operating income US\$128.5 billion (2025)Net income US\$101.8 billion (2025)Total assets US\$619.0 billion (2025)Total equity US\$343.5 billion (2025)Number of employees228,000 (2025)Divisions Microsoft Gaming Microsoft 365 Microsoft Research Microsoft AI Windows and Devices Group Microsoft Cloud Microsoft Security Microsoft Industry Microsoft Services Applications Microsoft Developer Subsidiaries GitHub LinkedIn ASAN8075 Webitemicrosoft.comFootnotes / referencesFinancials as of June 30, 2025[update][1][1] This article is part of a series aboutBill Gates Personal Awards and honors Philanthropy Political positions Public Image Resource Family Companies TraF-O-Data Microsoft history timeline criticism BENLABS Cascade Investment TerraPower Gates Ventures Charitable organizations Gates Foundation Match for Africa The Giving Green EPR Project Breakthrough Energy Mission Innovation Writings Open Letter to Hobbyists The Road to Business @ the Speed of Light How I Would Prevent the Next Pandemic Source Code Pyspellings Related Bill Gates Flower field Code Leicor Los Grands Paul Allen vte Microsoft Corporation is an American medical technology conglomerate headquartered in Redmond, Washington. Founded in 1975, the company became influential in the rise of personal computers through software like Windows, and has since expanded to Internet services, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, video gaming, and other fields. Often described as a Big Tech company, Microsoft is the largest software company by revenue, one of the most valuable public companies,[a] and one of the most valuable brands globally. Microsoft was founded by Bill Gates and Paul Allen to market BASIC interpreters for the Altair 8800. It rose to dominate the personal computer operating system market with MS-DOS in the mid-1980s, followed by Windows. During the 41 years from 1980 to 2021 Microsoft released 9 versions of MS-DOS with a median frequency of 2 years, and 13 versions of Windows with a median frequency of 3 years. The company's 1986 initial public offering (IPO) and subsequent rise in its share price created three billionaires and an estimated 12,000 millionaires among Microsoft employees. Since the 1990s, it has increasingly diversified from the operating system market. Steve Ballmer replaced Gates as CEO in 2000. He oversaw the then-largest of Microsoft's corporate acquisitions in Skype Technologies in 2011.[2] An increased focus on hardware[3][4] that led to its first-in-house PC line, the Surface, in 2012, and the formation of Microsoft Mobile through Nokia. Since Satya Nadella took over as CEO in 2014, the company has changed focus towards cloud computing,[5][6] as well as its acquisition of LinkedIn for \$26.2 billion in 2016.[7] Under Nadella's direction, the company has expanded its video gaming business to support the Xbox brand, establishing the Microsoft Gaming division in 2022 and the acquisition of Activision Blizzard in 2023.[8][9] Microsoft has been a major force in the artificial intelligence software market, and the office software market, with its software operating systems such as Microsoft 365 and Microsoft 365, and a 365 suite of productivity applications, with most notably including the Word word processor, Excel spreadsheet editor, and the PowerPoint presentation program. Its flagship hardware products are the Surface lineup of personal computers and Xbox video game consoles, the latter of which includes the Xbox network; the company also provides a range of consumer Internet services such as Bing web search, the MSN web portal, the Outlook.com (Hotmail) email service and the Microsoft Store. In the enterprise and development fields, Microsoft most notably provides the Azure cloud computing platform, Microsoft SQL Server database software, and Visual Studio.[citation needed] In April 2019, Microsoft became the third public U.S. company to be valued at over \$1 trillion. It has been criticized for its monopolistic practices, and the company's software received criticism for problems with ease of use, robustness, and security. More recently, it has been criticized for its role in providing services to Israel during the Gaza war. Main article: History of Microsoft For a chronological guide, see Timeline of Microsoft. An Altair 8800 computer (left) with the popular Model 33 ASR Teletype as terminal, paper tape reader, and paper tape punch Paul Allen and Bill Gates on October 19, 1981, after signing a pivotal contract with IBM[9]; 228 Bill Gates and Paul Allen's Original Business Cards located in the Microsoft Visitor Center Childhood friends Bill Gates and Paul Allen sought to make a business using their skills in computer programming.[10] In 1972, they founded TraF-O-Data, which sold a rudimentary computer to track and analyze automobile traffic data. Gates enrolled at Harvard University while Allen pursued a degree in computer science at Washington State University, though he later dropped out to work at Honeywell.[11] The January 1975 issue of Popular Electronics featured Micro Instrumentation and Telemetry Systems's (MITS) Altair 8800 microcomputer,[12] which inspired Allen to suggest that they could program a BASIC interpreter for the device. Gates called MITS and claimed that he had a working interpreter and MITS eventually agreed to work on a simulator for the Altair while the developers at Microsoft worked on their own. In October 1975, the two founders developed the Altair BASIC, which was the first software to run on the Altair. In 1976, Microsoft signed a contract with IBM to develop a BASIC interpreter for the IBM PC. In 1977, Microsoft signed a contract with IBM to develop a BASIC interpreter for the IBM PC. In 1978, Microsoft signed a contract with IBM to develop a BASIC interpreter for the IBM PC. In 1979, Microsoft signed a contract with IBM to develop a BASIC interpreter for the IBM PC. In 1980, Microsoft signed a contract with IBM to develop a BASIC interpreter for the IBM PC. In 1981, Microsoft signed a contract with IBM to develop a BASIC interpreter for the IBM PC. In 1982, Microsoft signed a contract with IBM to develop a BASIC interpreter for the IBM PC. 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