

## Paul Allen, co-founder of Microsoft, dies aged 65

Paul Allen, who co-founded Microsoft with his childhood friend Bill Gates, has died. He was 65.

Earlier this month Allen said the cancer he was treated for in 2009, non-Hodgkin *lymphoma*, had returned.

lymphoma 淋巴瘤

Allen and his high school friend Gates founded Microsoft in 1975. He served as the company's executive vice-president of research and new product development until 1983, when he left for health reasons. He stayed as a major shareholder and member of the board.

"I am heartbroken by the passing of one of my oldest and dearest friend, Paul Allen," said Bill Gates in a statement on Monday. Despite being less well-known than Bill Gates, Allen played a critical role in developing the personal computer at a time when the typical computer was the size of a room and far too expensive for most people or businesses to own.

It was Allen who came up with the name Microsoft and, according to his *memoir* Idea Man, it was he who came up with the idea to write a software program for the world's first micro-computer.

memoir 回忆录; 自传

Microsoft's *big break* came in 1980, when IBM decided to move into personal computers. IBM asked Microsoft to provide the operating system.

big break 重大转机

The decision *thrust* Microsoft onto the *throne* of technology and the two *Seattle* natives became billionaires. Both later dedicated themselves to *philanthropy*.

thrust 推; 插入

throne 王座; 君主

Seattle 西雅图

philanthropy 慈善事业

Over *the course of* several decades, Allen gave more than \$2bn to a wide range of interests, including ocean health, homelessness and advancing scientific research.

the course of ...的进程