

**Elon Reeve Musk** ([/ˈiːlɒn mʌsk/](#); born June 28, 1971) is a businessman known for [his key roles](#) in [Tesla, Inc.](#), [SpaceX](#), and [Twitter](#) (which he [rebranded as X](#)). Since 2025, he has been a [senior advisor](#) to United States President [Donald Trump](#) and head of the [Department of Government Efficiency](#) (DOGE). Musk is the [wealthiest person in the world](#); as of February 2025, [Forbes](#) estimates [his net worth](#) to be US\$384 billion.

Born to [a prominent family](#) in [Pretoria](#), South Africa, Musk emigrated to Canada in 1989 and acquired its citizenship via his mother. He moved to the U.S. and studied at the [University of Pennsylvania](#) before moving to [California](#) to pursue business ventures, and in 1995 co-founded the software company [Zip2](#). After its sale in 1999, he co-founded [X.com](#), an online payment company which later became [PayPal](#), which was acquired by [eBay](#) in 2002 for \$1.5 billion. In 2002, Musk also became a U.S. citizen.

In 2002, Musk founded [SpaceX](#) and became its CEO and chief engineer. The company has since led innovations in [reusable rockets](#) and [commercial spaceflight](#). In 2004, Musk joined [Tesla, Inc.](#), as an early investor, and became its CEO and product architect in 2008; it has become a market leader in [electric vehicles](#). In 2015, he co-founded [OpenAI](#) to advance [artificial intelligence](#) research, but left its board in 2018. In 2016, Musk co-founded [Neuralink](#), a company focused on [brain–computer interfaces](#), and in 2017 launched [the Boring Company](#), which aims to develop tunnel transportation. Musk was named [Time magazine's Person of the Year](#) in 2021. In 2022, he acquired Twitter, implementing significant changes and rebranding it as X in 2023. In January 2025, he was appointed head of Trump's newly created DOGE.

[Musk's political activities](#) and [views](#) have made him [a polarizing figure](#). He has been criticized for making unscientific and misleading statements, including [COVID-19 misinformation](#), [affirming antisemitic](#) and [transphobic comments](#), and [promoting conspiracy theories](#). His acquisition of Twitter was controversial due to a subsequent [increase in hate speech](#) and the [spread of misinformation](#) on the service. Musk has engaged in political activities in several countries, including as a vocal and financial supporter of Trump. Musk was the largest donor in the [2024 U.S. presidential election](#) and is a supporter of [far-right](#) figures, causes, and political parties.