Silicon Valley is a region in the

southern part of the San Francisco Bay

Area in Northern California that serves

as a global center for high technology

innovation and social media it

corresponds roughly to the geographical

Santa Clara Valley although as

boundaries have increased in recent

decades San Juan is the Valley's largest

city the third-largest in California and

the tenth largest in the United States

other Silicon Valley cities include Palo

Alto Menlo Park Redwood City copper Tino

Santa Clara Mountain View and sunny

valley the word silicon is the name

originally referred to the large number

of innovators and manufacturers in the

region specializing in silicon based

transistors and integrated circuit chips

Silicon Valley was born through several

contributing factors intersecting

including a skilled Ste M research-based

housed in area universities plentiful

venture capital and steady US Department

of Defense spending

Stanford University leadership was

especially important in the valleys

early development in the 1890s Stanford

University leaders saw its mission as a

service to the west and shaped the

school accordingly at the same time the

perceived exploration in the West the

hands of eastern interests fueled

booster like attempts to build

self-sufficient local industry thus

regionalism helped align Stanford's

interests with those of the area's high

tech firms for the first 50 years of

Silicon Valley's development during the

1940s and 1950s Frederick Terman

Stanford's Dean of engineering and

provost and Hearst facility and

graduates to start their own companies

he is credited with nurturing Hewlett

Packard vari and associates and other

high-tech firms until what would become

Silicon Valley grew up around the

Stanford campus Turman is often called

the father of Silicon Valley in 1953

William Shockley

the creator of the transistor left Bell

Labs in a disagreement over the handling

of the invention

the transistor after returning to

California Institute of Technology for a

short while

Shockley moved to Mountain View

California in 1956 and found a chocolate

am a conductor laboratory unlike many

other researchers who use germanium as

of the semiconductor material

Shockley believed that silicon was the

better material for making transistors

Shockley intended to replace the current

transistor with a new three element

design today known as the Shockley diode

but the design was considerably more

difficult to build them the simple

transistor a year later Shockley decided

to end a research on the silicon

transistor as a result of Shockley's

abusive management style eight engineers

left the company to form Fairchild

Semiconductor Shockley referred to them

as the traitorous eight two of the

original toys a Fairchild Semiconductor

Robert Noyce and Gordon Moore would go

on to form Intel further research on

silicon semiconductors by Bell Labs

engineers Mohammad Atalla and Dhawan

Kahne led to the invention most FET

metal oxide silicon field effect

transistor in 1959 the development of

mass technology with its increased

miniaturization became the focus of RCA

Fairchild Intel and other semiconductor

companies feeling the technological and

economic growth of the valley on April

23 1963 JCR Licklider the first director

of the information processing

technologies office I PTO at the

Pentagon's ARPA issued an office

memorandum addressed to members and

affiliates of the intergalactic computer

network it rescheduled a meeting in Palo

Alto regarding his vision of a computer

network which he imagined as an

electronic Commons open to all the main

an essential medium of information

interaction for government

institutions corporations and

individuals as head of the IPT Oh from

1962 to 1964 Licklider initiated three

of the most important developments in

information technology the creation of

computer science departments as several

major universities time sharing and

networking in the late 1960s his

promotion of the concept had inspired a

primitive version of his vision called

ARPANET which expanded into a network of

networks in the 1970s that became the

Internet the Immigration and Nationality

Act of 1965 another factor such as the

mass exodus by Vietnamese boat people

resulted in significant immigration

particularly by Asians Latinos in

Portuguese to Silicon Valley were they

contributed to both the high tech and

production workforce the Asian American

population in Santa Clara County rose

from 43,000 in 1970 to four hundred and

thirty thousand and two thousand during

the same period the Latino population

grew to 24% of the county and 30% of San

Jose the african-american population in

the county remained steady but grew

slightly to about 5% expansion of the

h-1b visa in 1990 also played a role

following the invention of the

integrated circuit by Noyce at fairchild

and the MOSFET by Alta and Kang at Bell

Labs both a 1959 the first commercial

most IC was introduced in 1964

the development of the most icy led to

the invention of the microprocessor

incorporating the functions of a

computer central processing unit CPU on

a single integrated circuit the first

single-chip microprocessor was the Intel

four zero zero four designed and

realized by Frederico Fagin along with

Donna Hoff Oh Satoshi Shima and Stanley

Mazur at Intel in 1971 in April 1974

Intel release the Intel 8008 zero a

computer on a chip the first truly

usable microprocessor in the early 1970s

were mainly semiconductor companies in

the area computer firms were using their

devices and programming in service

companies serving both industrial space

was plentiful and housing was still

inexpensive growth during this era was

fueled by the emergence of venture

capital on Sand Hill Road

beginning with kleiner perkins and

Sequoia Capital in 1972 the availability

of venture capital exploded after to the

successful 1.3 billion IPO of Apple

computer in December 1980 since the

1980s Silicon Valley has been home to

the largest concentration of venture

capital firms in the world prior to 1970

most Northern California lawyers were

based in San Francisco especially the

experienced patent attorneys whom the

high tech industry needed to protect its

intellectual property during the

nineteen seventies lawyers began to

follow venture capitalists down the

peninsula to serve the booming high-tech

industry in Silicon Valley one sign of

the rapid expansion of Silicon Valley

legal services was at Palo Alto law firm

Wilson and Shawne C Goodrich and Rosati

expanded from a dozen attorneys in 1975

to more

at 700 by 2,000 during this era law

firms evolved from their conventional

role as protectors of intellectual

property and did business advisors

intermediaries in dealmakers and thereby

acquired unusual prominence in Silicon

Valley

although semiconductors are still a

major component of the area's economy

Silicon Valley has been most famous in

recent years for innovations in software

in Internet services Silicon Valley has

significantly influenced computer

operating systems software in user

interfaces commercially used the

internet became practical and grew

slowly throughout the early 1990s in

1995 commercially used the internet grew

substantially and the initial wave of

internet startups amazon.com eBay and

the predecessor to Craigslist began

operations Silicon Valley is generally

considered to have been the center of

the dot-com bubble which started in mid

1990s and collapsed after the Nasdaq

stock market began to decline

dramatically in April 2000 during the

bubble era real estate prices reached

unprecedented levels for a brief time

Sand Hill Road was home to the most

expensive commercial real estate in the

world in the booming economy resulted in

severe traffic congestion after the

dot-com crash Silicon Valley continues

to maintain its status as one of the top

research and development centers in the

world a 2006 The Wall Street Journal

story found that 12 of the 20 most

innovative towns in America were in

California in 10 of those are in Silicon

Valley San Jose led the list with three

thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven

utility patents filed in 2005 and number

two was Sunnyvale at 1881 utility

patents

Silicon Valley is also home to a

significant number of unicorn ventures

referring to start-up companies whose

valuation has exceeded 1 billion dollars

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