**ATT&T**

[**https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/02/12/technology/att-history.html**](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/02/12/technology/att-history.html)

**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\_of\_AT%26T**

1984

**The Bell Breakup**

Ten years after the [government filed an antitrust lawsuit](http://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1974/11/21/80258731.html?pageNumber=1), and two years after [a settlement was reached](http://www.nytimes.com/1982/01/09/us/us-settles-phone-suit-drops-ibm-case-at-t-to-split-up-transforming-industry.html), [American Telephone is broken up](http://www.nytimes.com/1983/12/31/business/bell-ringing-out-the-old-system.html), retaining its long-distance and equipment manufacturing businesses.

1991

**Computer, Cable and Wireless Missteps**

Signaling a determination to [move beyond telecommunications](http://www.nytimes.com/1991/06/09/magazine/cover-story-when-at-t-plays-hardball.html), [AT&T buys a computer maker](http://www.nytimes.com/1991/05/07/business/at-t-buying-computer-maker-in-stock-deal-worth-7.4-billion.html). Three years later, it [buys a cellular company](http://www.nytimes.com/1994/09/20/business/company-news-at-t-completes-deal-to-buy-mccaw-cellular.html) and begins an race to build a national wireless network. Following Congress’s [1996 deregulation](http://www.nytimes.com/1996/02/09/us/communications-bill-signed-and-the-battles-begin-anew.html) of the [telecommunications industry](http://www.nytimes.com/1996/01/03/business/job-cuts-at-at-t-will-total-40000-13-of-its-staff.html), AT&T [acquires the nation’s No. 2](http://www.nytimes.com/1998/06/25/business/communications-giant-the-deal-with-cable-deal-at-t-makes-move-to-regain-empire.html) [cable television company](http://www.nytimes.com/1998/06/25/business/communications-giant-the-deal-with-cable-deal-at-t-makes-move-to-regain-empire.html).

In 1994, AT&T purchased the largest cellular carrier, [McCaw Cellular](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCaw_Cellular), for $11.5 billion and kick-started its cellular division with 2 million subscribers.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_AT%26T#cite_note-8)[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_AT%26T#cite_note-9)

In 1995, AT&T purchased long-distance provider Alaska Communications System. FCC approval required the company be run as an AT&T subsidiary rather than a more likely absorption into [AT&T Communications](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AT%26T_Communications), giving the company the [AT&T Alascom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AT%26T_Alascom) name.

In 1997, AT&T hired former [IBM](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IBM) executive [C Michael Armstrong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C_Michael_Armstrong) as its [chief executive officer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_executive_officer). Armstrong's vision was to change AT&T from a long-distance carrier into a global "telecommunications [supermarket](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supermarket)", eying Internet services for the [booming dot-com industry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dot-com_bubble).

In 1999, AT&T acquired the [Olivetti & Oracle Research Lab](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olivetti_Research_Laboratory), from [Olivetti](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olivetti) and [Oracle Corporation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oracle_Corporation). In 2002, it closed down the research part of the lab.

Also in 1999, AT&T paid US$5 billion to purchase IBM's Global Network business, which became AT&T Global Network Services, LLC. As part of the purchase agreement, IBM granted AT&T a five-year, US$5-billion contract to handle much of IBM's networking needs, and AT&T outsourced some of its applications processing and data management work to IBM. IBM also committed to billing and installation for AT&T's long-distance customers in a 10-year deal valued at US$4 billion; and assumed management of AT&T's data processing centers.

With long-distance rates falling and the market for telecommunications services overall weakening, AT&T could not sustain the debt it had incurred in these ventures. Moreover, the cost of upgrading TCI's equipment to handle two-way communications proved far higher than pre-merger estimates. AT&T undertook a major reorganization in October 2000, moving its mobile phone and broadband units into separate companies, to allow each unit to raise capital independently.

2000

**Breaking Up Again**

[AT&T pulls back](http://www.nytimes.com/2000/10/24/business/24TELE.html) from an effort to become the first one-stop shop selling long-distance, [wireless](http://www.nytimes.com/2001/07/09/business/09PLAC.html), [cable television](http://www.nytimes.com/2001/12/20/business/at-t-s-cable-deal-the-overview-comcast-wins-bid-for-at-t-s-cable.html) and Internet services. It announces that instead it will [break itself into four parts](http://www.nytimes.com/2000/10/26/business/breaking-up-again-overview-t-pullback-will-break-itself-into-4-businesses.html).

On July 9, 2001, it spun off [AT&T Wireless Services](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AT%26T_Wireless_Services) in what was then the world's largest [initial public offering](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Initial_public_offering) (IPO). Later that year it spun off [AT&T Broadband](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AT%26T_Broadband) and [Liberty Media](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberty_Media), which comprised its [cable TV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cable_television) assets. AT&T Broadband was subsequently acquired by [Comcast](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comcast) in 2002, and AT&T Wireless merged with [Cingular Wireless](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cingular_Wireless) LLC in 2004. The merged wireless phone company operated as Cingular until 2007, when it became [AT&T Mobility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AT%26T_Mobility).

In 2004, the U.S. government eliminated equal access regulations that allowed long-distance phone companies to access the networks owned by the regional Bell carriers at fixed rates. This ultimately caused AT&T to move away from the residential telephone business — declaring in the process that it would no longer market residential telephone service. Instead, its residential focus shifted to offering a voice service over a broadband Internet connection called [AT&T CallVantage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AT%26T_CallVantage).

2005

**Baby Bell Buys AT&T**

SBC, the second-largest regional phone company, [buys AT&T](http://www.nytimes.com/2005/01/31/business/sbc-agrees-to-acquire-att-for-16-billion.html). Formerly known as Southwestern Bell, it was [one of AT&T’s oldest affiliates](http://www.nytimes.com/2005/02/01/business/large-cost-cuts-a-crucial-goal-for-sbc-deal.html). [AT&T was undone](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/07/business/07phone.html) by cheaper Internet technology, growth in a cellphone industry where it has no role and regulatory changes that [squeezed it out of the local phone market](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/21/business/21phone.html). “For SBC, this is a really dumb idea,” one analyst said.

2014

**AT&T Grows Again**

After [scrapping its takeover of T-Mobile USA](http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2011/12/19/att-withdraws-39-bid-for-t-mobile/), AT&T [agrees to buy the satellite television operator DirecTV](http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2014/05/18/att-to-buy-directv-for-48-5-billion/). The deal is an attempt to tilt the balance of power with media companies as the market for broadband Internet and video shifts.

2016

**A Colossal Time Warner Deal**

The telecommunications giant [agreed to buy Time Warnerto buy Time Warner](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/23/business/dealbook/att-agrees-to-buy-time-warner-for-more-than-80-billion.html), the home of HBO and CNN, for about $85.4 billion, creating a new colossus capable of both producing content and distributing it to millions with wireless phones, broadband subscriptions and satellite TV connections.

**Verizon Communications**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon\_Communications

**Bell Atlantic (1983–2000)**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Verizon_Communications&action=edit&section=2)]

**Bell Atlantic Corporation** was created as one of the original Regional Bell Operating Companies (RBOCs) in 1984, during the breakup of the Bell System.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-Schofield05-15)[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-Mayer83-16) Bell Atlantic's original roster of operating companies included:

* The Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-Reuters84-17)
* New Jersey Bell[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-Goodnough96-18)
* Diamond State Telephone[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-Vise89-19)
* C&P Telephone[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-Vise89-19) (itself comprising four subsidiaries)[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-AssociatedPress89-20)

Bell Atlantic originally operated in the states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia, as well as Washington, DC.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-Vise89-19)

In 1996, CEO and Chairman [Raymond W. Smith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raymond_W._Smith) orchestrated Bell Atlantic's merger with NYNEX.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-Landler96-21) When it merged, it moved its corporate headquarters from Philadelphia to New York City.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-Landler96-21) NYNEX was consolidated into this name by 1997.[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-Landler97-22)

**Acquisition of GTE (2000–2002)**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Verizon_Communications&action=edit&section=3)]

Bell Atlantic changed its name to Verizon Communications in June 2000 when the [Federal Communications Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Communications_Commission) approved a US$64.7 billion [acquisition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mergers_and_acquisitions) of telephone company GTE, nearly two years after the deal was proposed in July 1998.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CNN00-23) The approval came with 25 stipulations to preserve competition between local phone carriers, including investing in new markets and [broadband](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broadband) technologies.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CNN00-23) The new entity was headed by co-CEOs Charles Lee, formerly the CEO of GTE, and Bell Atlantic CEO [Ivan Seidenberg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivan_Seidenberg).[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CNN00-23)

Upon the acquisition, Verizon became the largest local telephone company in the United States, operating 63 million telephone lines in 40 states.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-StephenLabaton-24) The company also inherited 25 million mobile phone customers.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-StephenLabaton-24) Additionally, Verizon offered internet services and long-distance calling in New York, before expanding long-distance operations to other states.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CNN00-23)[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-BruceMeyerson-25)

The name Verizon derives from the combination of the words [*veritas*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veritas), [Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin) for truth, and [horizon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horizon).[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-BryanCulp-26) The name was chosen from 8,500 candidates and the company spent $300 million on marketing the new brand.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-BryanCulp-26)[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-JohnBorland-27)

Two months before the FCC gave final approval on the formation of Verizon Communications, Bell Atlantic formed Verizon Wireless in a [joint venture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_venture) with the British telecommunications company [Vodafone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vodafone) in April 2000.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-JohnBorland-27)[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CNN99-28)[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-ErichLuening-29) The companies established Verizon Wireless as its own business operated by Bell Atlantic, which owned 55% of the venture.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CNN99-28) Vodafone retained 45% of the company.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CNN99-28) The deal was valued at approximately $70 billion and created a mobile carrier with 23 million customers.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-JohnBorland-27)[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CNN99-28) Verizon Wireless merged Bell Atlantic's wireless network, Vodafone's AirTouch and [PrimeCo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PrimeCo" \o "PrimeCo) holdings, and the wireless division of GTE.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CNN99-28)[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-ToddWeiss-30)[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-EveTahmincioglu-31) Due to its size, Verizon Wireless was able to offer national coverage at competitive rates, giving it an advantage over regional providers typical of the time.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-JohnBorland-27)

During its first operational year, Verizon Wireless released [Mobile Web](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile_Web), an Internet service that allowed customers to access partner sites such as [E\*Trade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E*Trade), [ABC News](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ABC_News), [ESPN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ESPN), [Amazon.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazon.com), [Ticketmaster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ticketmaster) and [MSN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MSN),[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-ErichLuening-29) as well as the "New Every Two" program, which gave customers a free phone with every two-year service contract.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-NYT00-32) In another partnership with MSN in 2002, Verizon Wireless launched the mobile content service "VZW with MSN" and a phone that utilized the [Microsoft Windows](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Windows) [operating system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operating_system).[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-USAT02-33)

In August 2000, approximately 85,000 Verizon workers went on an [18-day labor strike](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_strike_of_2000) after their [union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trade_union) contracts expired.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-NYTJuly00-34)[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CNNAug00-35) The strike affected quarterly revenues,[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CecilyBarnes-36) resulting in Verizon Wireless' postponement of the company's [IPO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Initial_public_offering)[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CecilyBarnes-36) (the IPO was ultimately cancelled in 2003, because the company no longer needed to raise revenue for Verizon Wireless due to increased profits[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-Telegeography-37)), and created a backlog of repairs.[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CNNAug00-35) Verizon launched [3G](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3G) service in 2002, which doubled the Internet speeds of the time to 144kb a second.[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-SimonRomero-38) In August 2002, Verizon began offering local, long-distance, and mobile calling, as well as Internet service, in a [bundle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Product_bundling). It was initially only available to customers in [New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_(state)) and [Massachusetts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts).[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-BruceMeyerson-25)

**2003–2005**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Verizon_Communications&action=edit&section=4)]

In June 2003, Verizon Wireless backed an FCC-issued portability requirement that permitted consumers to take their phone numbers with them across carriers.[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-MattRichtel-39) The company gained 1.5 million new subscribers the following quarter, partially due to the rule change.[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-MattRichtel04-40) The following year, in April 2004, the [Dow Jones Industrial Average](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dow_Jones_Industrial_Average) added Verizon Communications to its [stock market index](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stock_market_index).[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-ChrisIsidore-41) Verizon replaced telecom competitor AT&T, which had been a part of the index since the Great Depression.[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-ChrisIsidore-41)

On December 22, 2004, [mail servers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mail_server) at Verizon.net were configured not to accept connections from Europe, by default, in an attempt to reduce [spam email](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spam_email) that was originating from the region. Individual domains would only be unblocked upon request.[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-JohnLeyden-42)

In 2004, Verizon launched its [Fios](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_FiOS) Internet service, which transmits data over [fiber optic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Optical_fiber) cables, in [Keller, Texas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keller,_Texas).[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-PeterSvensson-43)[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-Charny04-44) The company launched Fios TV in September 2005, also in Keller, Texas. Twenty percent of qualified homes signed up by the end of the year.[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-BartonEckert-45) By January 2006, Fios offered over 350 channels in eight states, including 20 [high-definition television](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High-definition_television) channels as well as [video on demand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Video_on_demand).[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-BartonEckert-45)

**MCI acquisition**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Verizon_Communications&action=edit&section=5)]

Verizon began negotiations to purchase long distance carrier [MCI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MCI_Inc.) in 2005. MCI accepted the company's initial $6.75 billion offer in February 2005, but then received a higher offer from [Qwest Communications](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qwest_Communications). Verizon increased its bid to $7.6 billion (or $23.50 a share), which MCI accepted on March 29, 2005.[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-PaulLaMonica-46) The [acquisition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mergers_and_acquisitions) gave the company access to MCI's one million corporate clients and international holdings, expanding Verizon's presence into global markets.[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-PaulLaMonica-46)[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-DavidEwalt-47) As a result, Verizon Business was established as a new division to serve the company's business and government customers.[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-48) The FCC approved the deal on November 5, 2005, valuing it at $8.5 billion.[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-NYT05-49) Verizon's 2006 revenues rose by as much as 20% following the purchase.[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CraytonHarrison-50)

**2006–2010**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Verizon_Communications&action=edit&section=6)]

In May 2006, [*USA Today*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USA_Today) reported that Verizon, as well as AT&T and [BellSouth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BellSouth), had given the [National Security Agency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Security_Agency) [landline](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landline) phone records following the [September 11 attacks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11_attacks).[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-MelissaMcNamara-51)[[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CNN06-52) That same month, a $50 billion lawsuit was filed by two lawyers on behalf of all Verizon subscribers for privacy violations and to prevent the company from releasing additional records without consent or warrant.[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-MelissaMcNamara-51)[[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CNN06-52) Protesters staged the National Day of Out(R)age due in part to the controversy.[[53]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-DeclanMcCullagh-53) Verizon stated in 2007 that the company fulfilled only "lawful demands" for information,[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-EricLichtblau-54) though also acknowledged surrendering customer information to government agencies without court orders or [warrants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warrant_(law)) 720 times between 2005 and 2007.[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-EllenNakashima-55)

Verizon won a lawsuit against [Vonage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vonage) in March 2007 for [patent infringement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patent_infringement). The three patents named were filed by Bell Atlantic in 1997 and relate to the conversion of IP addresses into phone numbers, a key technology of Vonage's business.[[56]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-LarryBarrett-56) The company was awarded US$58 million in damages and future royalties.[[56]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-LarryBarrett-56) Vonage later lost an appeal and was ordered to pay Verizon $120 million.[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-JeffStOnge-57)

In May 2007, Verizon acquired Cybertrust, a privately held provider of global information security services.[[58]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-58)

Verizon Wireless reversed a controversial decision in September 2007 to deny [NARAL Pro-Choice America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NARAL_Pro-Choice_America) a short code through which the organization could [text](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Text_messaging) consumers who had signed up for messaging from the group. They had initially refused the group access to a code by reserving the right to block "controversial or unsavory" messages.[[59]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-AdamLiptak-59)

In November 2007, Verizon opened its networks for the first time to third party [apps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile_app) and devices,[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-BryanGardiner07-60) a decision that allowed it to participate in the FCC's [2008 700 MHz auction of "open access" spectrum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_2008_wireless_spectrum_auction).[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-BryanGardiner07-60)[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-PeterKaplan-61) During that auction, the company bid $9.4 billion and won the bulk of national and local licenses for airwaves reaching approximately 469 million people.[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-PeterKaplan-61)[[62]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-BryanGardiner08-62) Verizon utilized the increased spectrum for its 4G service.[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-PeterKaplan-61)

Verizon Wireless purchased wireless carrier [Alltel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alltel) for $28.1 billion in June 2008. The acquisition included 13 million customers, which allowed Verizon Wireless to surpass AT&T in number of customers and reach new markets in rural areas.[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-SineadCarew-63)

In October 2010, Verizon Wireless paid $77.8 million in refunds and FCC penalties for overcharging 15 million customers for data services. The company stated the overcharges were accidental and only amounted to a few dollars per customer.[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-ScottWoolley-64)[[65]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CeciliaKang-65)

On February 4, 2010, [4chan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4chan) started receiving reports from Verizon Wireless customers that they were having difficulties accessing the site's image boards. 4chan administrators found that only traffic on port 80 to the boards.4chan.org domain was affected, leading them to believe that the block was intentional. On February 7, 2010, Verizon Wireless confirmed that 4chan.org was "explicitly blocked"[[66]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-66) after Verizon's security and external experts detected sweep attacks coming from an IP address associated with the 4chan network. Traffic was restored several days later.[[67]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-67)

In August 2010, the chairmen of Verizon and Google agreed that [network neutrality](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Network_neutrality_in_the_United_States) should be defined and limited.[[68]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-68)[[69]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-69)

Verizon introduced its [4G](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4G) [LTE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LTE_(telecommunication)) network in 38 markets in December 2010, as well as in airports in seven additional cities. The company planned on a three-year continuous expansion of the 4G service.[[70]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-70)

**Selling wirelines (2005–2010 & 2015)**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Verizon_Communications&action=edit&section=7)]

Between 2005 and 2010, Verizon divested wireline operations in several states in order to focus on its wireless, Fios internet and Fios TV businesses.[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CraytonHarrison-50) It sold 700,000 lines in Hawaii in 2005,[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CraytonHarrison-50)[[71]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-PeterSayer-71) and [spun off](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporate_spin-off) lines in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont in January 2007 that were then purchased by [FairPoint Communications](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FairPoint_Communications" \o "FairPoint Communications) for $2.72 billion.[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-CraytonHarrison-50) Verizon also shed its telephone directory business in 2006.[[72]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-RyanFuhrmann-72)

In May 2009, the company spun off wirelines in Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin into a company that then merged with [Frontier Communications](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frontier_Communications) in a deal valued at $8.6 billion.[[73]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-SaulHansell-73)[[74]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-74) In 2016, Verizon sold its wireline operations in Texas, Florida, and California to Frontier.[[75]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-75)

**2011–present**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Verizon_Communications&action=edit&section=8)]

On January 27, 2011, Verizon acquired [Terremark](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Enterprise_Solutions" \o "Verizon Enterprise Solutions), an information technology services company for $1.4 billion.[[76]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-EvelynRusli-76) Ivan Seidenberg retired as Verizon's CEO on August 1, 2011. [Lowell McAdam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lowell_McAdam) succeeded him.[[77]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-PeterSvensson11-77)

In December 2011, the non-partisan organization [Public Campaign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_Campaign#Reports) criticized Verizon for its [tax avoidance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tax_avoidance) procedures after it spent $52.34 million on [lobbying](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lobbying) while collecting $951 million in tax rebates between 2008 and 2010 and making a profit of $32.5 billion. The same report also criticized Verizon for increasing executive pay by 167% in 2010 for its top five executives while laying off 21,308 workers between 2008 and 2010.[[78]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-AshleyPortero-78) However, in its Form 10-K filed with the SEC on February 24, 2012, Verizon reported having paid more than $11.1 billion in taxes (including income, employment and property taxes) from 2009 to 2011. In addition, the company reported in the 10-K that most of the drop in employment since 2008 was due to a voluntary retirement offer.[[79]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-SEC-79)

In June 2012, as part of its strategy to expand into new growth areas in its wireless business, Verizon purchased Hughes [Telematics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telematics)—a company that produces wireless features for [automobiles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automobiles)—for $612 million.[[80]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-MichaelMerced-80) Also in June 2012, Verizon's [E-911](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enhanced_911) service failed in the aftermath of the [June 2012 derecho storm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/June_2012_North_American_derecho) in several northern Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C., with some problems lasting several days.[[81]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-JustinJuvenal-81) The FCC conducted an investigation[[81]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-JustinJuvenal-81) and in January 2013 released a report detailing the problems that led to the failure. Verizon reported that it had already addressed or was addressing a number of the issues related to the FCC report, including the causes of generator failures, conducting audits of backup systems and making its monitoring systems less centralized,[[82]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-EdwardWyatt-82) although the FCC indicated that Verizon still needed to make additional improvements.[[83]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-MaryFlaherty-83)

In July 2012, the FCC ruled that Verizon must stop charging users an added fee for using 4G smartphones and tablets as [Wi-Fi hotspots](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wi-Fi_hotspot) (known as "[tethering](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tethering)"). Verizon had been charging its customers, even those with "unlimited" plans, $20 per month for tethering. As part of the settlement, Verizon made a voluntary payment of $1.25 million to the [U.S. Treasury](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Treasury).[[84]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-Vaughan-Nichols-84)

In August 2012, the [Department of Justice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Justice) approved Verizon's purchase of [Advanced Wireless Services](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advanced_Wireless_Services) (AWS) spectrum from a consortium of cable companies, including [Comcast](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comcast), [Time Warner Cable](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_Warner_Cable) and [Bright House Networks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bright_House_Networks), for $3.9 billion.[[85]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-KevinFitchard-85) Verizon began expanding its LTE network utilizing these extra airwaves in October 2013.[[86]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-86)

On June 5, 2013, [*The Guardian*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Guardian) reported it had obtained an order by the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Bureau_of_Investigation) (FBI) and approved by the [United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Foreign_Intelligence_Surveillance_Court) that required Verizon to provide the NSA with telephone [metadata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metadata) for all calls originating in the U.S.[[87]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-EwenMacAskill-87)[[88]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-FoxNews-88) Verizon Wireless was not part of the NSA data collection for wireless accounts due to foreign ownership issues.[[89]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-DannyYadron-89) (see also [MAINWAY](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MAINWAY) article)

In September 2013, Verizon purchased the 45% stake in Verizon Wireless owned by Vodafone for $130 billion.[[90]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-BBC_News-90) The deal closed on February 21, 2014, becoming the third largest corporate deal ever signed, giving Verizon Communications sole ownership of Verizon Wireless.[[91]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-DevindraHardawar-91)

On January 14, 2014, the [DC Circuit Court of Appeals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Court_of_Appeals_for_the_District_of_Columbia_Circuit) struck down the FCC's [net neutrality](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Net_neutrality) rules after Verizon filed suit against them in January 2010.[[92]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-LeticiaMiranda-92)[[93]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-RyanSingel-93) In June 2016, in a 184-page ruling, the [United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Court_of_Appeals_for_the_District_of_Columbia_Circuit) upheld, by a 2–1 vote, the FCC's net neutrality rules and the FCC's determination that broadband access is a [public utility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_utility), rather than a luxury. AT&T and the telecom industry said that they would seek to appeal the decision to the [Supreme Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_the_United_States).[[94]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-94)

On January 22, 2014 the Wall Street Journal reported that Verizon received more than 1,000 requests for information about its subscribers on national security grounds via [National Security Letters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Security_Letters). In total, Verizon received 321,545 requests from federal, state and local law enforcement for U.S. customer information.[[95]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-RyanKnutson-95) In May 2015, Verizon agreed to pay $90 million "to settle federal and state investigations into allegations mobile customers were improperly billed for premium text messages."[[96]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-96)

In late-October 2014, Verizon Wireless launched *SugarString*, a technology news website. The publication attracted controversy after it was reported that its writers were forbidden from publishing articles related to [net neutrality](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Net_neutrality) or domestic [surveillance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surveillance). Although Verizon denied that this was the case, the site (described as being a pilot project) was shuttered in December.[[97]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-97)[[98]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-98)

In August 2015, Verizon launched [Hum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Hum), a service and device offering vehicle diagnostic and monitoring tools for vehicles.[[99]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-wired-99) On August 1, 2016, Verizon announced its acquisition of [Fleetmatics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fleetmatics), a [fleet telematics system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fleet_telematics_system) company in [Dublin, Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dublin,_Ireland), for $2.4 billion, to build products that it offers to enterprises for logistics and mobile workforces.[[100]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-100) On September 12, 2016, Verizon announced its acquisition of Sensity, a startup for [LED sensors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligent_street_lighting), in an effort to bolster its [IoT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_of_things) portfolio.[[101]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-101)

In October 2016, Verizon was accused by [Communications Workers of America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communications_Workers_of_America) of deliberately refusing to maintain its [copper telephone service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plain_old_telephone_service). The organization released internal memos and other documents stating that Verizon workers in Pennsylvania were being instructed to, in areas with network problems, migrate voice-only customers to VoiceLink—a system that delivers telephone service over the Verizon Wireless network, and not to repair the copper lines. VoiceLink has limitations, including incompatibility with services or devices that require the transmission of data over the telephone line, and a dependency on a battery backup in case of power failure. The memo warned that technicians who do not follow this procedure would be subject to "disciplinary action up to and including dismissal". A Verizon spokesperson responded to the allegations, stating that the company's top priority was to restore service to customers as quickly as possible, and that VoiceLink was a means of doing so in the event that larger repairs have to be done to the infrastructure. The spokesperson stated that it was "hard to argue with disciplining someone who intentionally leaves a customer without service".[[102]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-ars-verizoncopperfired-102)[[103]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-ars-voicelink-103)

In November 2016, Verizon acquired mapping startup SocialRadar; its technology will be integrated with [MapQuest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MapQuest).[[104]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-104)

On January 26, 2017, *The Washington Post* reported that Verizon was in talks to merge with [Charter Communications](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charter_Communications).[[105]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-105)

On March 13, 2017, Verizon was sued by New York City for violating its cable franchise agreement, which required the provider to pass a fiberoptic network to all households in the city by June 30, 2014. Verizon disputed the claims, citing landlords not granting permission to install the equipment on their properties, and an understanding with the government that the fiber network would follow the same routes as its copper lines, and did not necessarily mean it would have to pass the lines in front of every property.[[106]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-ars-verizonnyclawsuit-106)

On April 27, 2017 Verizon invested $10 million in Renovo Auto, a Campbell, California-based autonomous vehicle company.[[107]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-107)

Verizon Connect was created in 2018, combining the individual units Telematics, Fleetmatics, and Telogis.[[108]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-FitzGerald18-108)[[109]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-Moritz18-109)[[110]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Communications#cite_note-Szal18-110)

**Motorola**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola

In September 1983, the U.S. [Federal Communications Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Communications_Commission) (FCC) approved the [DynaTAC 8000X](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DynaTAC_8000X" \o "DynaTAC 8000X) telephone, the world's first commercial cellular device. By 1998, cell phones accounted for two-thirds of Motorola's gross revenue.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-26) The company was also strong in [semiconductor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semiconductor) technology, including [integrated circuits](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Integrated_circuits) used in computers. In particular, it is known for the [6800 family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola_6800_family) and [68000 family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola_68000_family) of [microprocessors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microprocessor) and related peripheral ICs; the processors were used in [Atari ST](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atari_ST), [Commodore Amiga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amiga), [Color Computer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TRS-80_Color_Computer), and [Apple Macintosh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apple_Macintosh) personal computers and in the early [HP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hewlett-Packard) [laser printers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laser_printer), and some 6800-family peripheral devices were used in the [IBM PC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IBM_PC) series of personal computers.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-27) The [PowerPC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PowerPC) family was developed with [IBM](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Business_Machines) and in a partnership with Apple (known as the [AIM alliance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AIM_alliance)). Motorola also has a diverse line of communication products, including [satellite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satellite) systems, [digital](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_data) [cable](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cable_television) boxes and [modems](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modems).

In 1986, Motorola invented the [Six Sigma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six_Sigma) quality improvement process. This became a global standard. In 1990 [General Instrument Corporation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Instrument_Corporation), which was later acquired by Motorola, proposed the first all-digital [HDTV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HDTV) standard. In the same year, the company introduced the Bravo numeric pager which became the world's best-selling pager.

In 1991, Motorola demonstrated the world's first working-prototype digital cellular system and phones using [GSM](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GSM) standard in [Hanover](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanover), Germany. In 1994, Motorola introduced the world's first commercial digital radio system that combined paging, data and cellular communications and voice dispatch in a single radio network and handset. In 1995, Motorola introduced the world's first two-way [pager](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pager) which allowed users to receive text messages and e-mail and reply with a standard response.

In 1997, to optimize cell phone production with room for future growth, production was moved to the new giant factory in Harvard, Il. Later with Motorola losing market share, phone assembly was moved to Fort Worth, Tx. leaving the Harvard facility.

In 1998, Motorola was overtaken by [Nokia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nokia) as the world's biggest seller of mobile phone handsets.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-money.cnn.com-21)

On September 15, 1999, Motorola announced it would buy [General Instrument](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Instrument) in an $11-billion stock swap. General Instrument had long been the No. 1 cable TV equipment provider, supplying cable operators with end-to-end hybrid fiber coax cable solutions. This meant that GI offers all cable TV transmission network components from the head-end to the fiber optic transmission nodes to the cable set-top boxes and cable modems, now at the availability of Motorola. GI's acquisition created the Broadband Communications Sector (BCS).

In 1999, Motorola separated a portion of its semiconductor business—the Semiconductor Components Group (SCG)-- and formed [ON Semiconductor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ON_Semiconductor), whose headquarters are located in [Phoenix, Arizona](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phoenix,_Arizona).[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-28)

In June 2000, Motorola and [Cisco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cisco) supplied the world's first commercial [GPRS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GPRS) cellular network to [BT Cellnet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BT_Cellnet) in the United Kingdom. The world's first GPRS cell phone was also developed by Motorola. In August 2000, with recent acquisitions, Motorola reached its peak employment of 150,000 employees worldwide.[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-29) Two years later, employment would be at 93,000 due to layoffs and spinoffs.

In 2002, Motorola introduced the world's first wireless [cable modem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cable_modem) [gateway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gateway_(telecommunications)) which combined a high-speed cable modem [router](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Router_(computing)) with an [ethernet switch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethernet_switch) and wireless home gateway. In 2003, Motorola introduced the world's first handset to combine a [Linux](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux) [operating system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operating_system)and [Java](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_(programming_language)) technology with "full [PDA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PDA) functionality". In 2004, Motorola divested its whole semiconductor business to form [Freescale Semiconductor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freescale_Semiconductor).

The [Motorola RAZR line](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola_RAZR_V3) sold over 130 million units,[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-30) which brought the company to the number two mobile phone slot in 2005.

On January 9, 2007, Steve Jobs announced iPhone at the Macworld convention, receiving substantial media attention. Jobs announced that the first iPhone would be released later that year. On **June 29, 2007**, the first iPhone was released.

In June 2005, Motorola overtook the intellectual property of [Sendo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sendo" \o "Sendo) for $30,000 and paid £362,575 for the plant, machinery and equipment.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-31)

In June 2006, Motorola acquired the software platform ([AJAR](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AJAR_(applications_software_platform))) developed by the British company TTP Communications plc.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-32) Later in 2006, the firm announced a music subscription service named *iRadio*. The technology came after a break in a partnership with [Apple Computer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apple_Computer) (which in 2005 had produced an [iTunes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ITunes) compatible cell phone [ROKR E1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ROKR_E1), and most recently, mid-2007, its own [iPhone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IPhone)). iRadio has many similarities with existing satellite radio services (such as [Sirius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirius_Satellite_Radio) and [XM Radio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XM_Radio)) by offering live streams of commercial-free music content. Unlike satellite services, however, iRadio content will be downloaded via a broadband internet connection. As of 2008, iRadio has not been commercially released and no further information is available.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-33)

Motorola's mobile phones business failed to repeat the success of the highly popular RAZR phone, leading to it becoming rapidly dwindled.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-34) In 2006 the company's mobile phone market share was about 23% but by the end of 2007 it dropped to 12%, falling to third place behind [Samsung](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samsung).[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-35) It was further halved again, to 6%, by 2009,[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-36) by which time the market share was overtaken by [LG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LG), and by 2010 was overtaken by [Research In Motion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research_In_Motion), [Sony Ericsson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sony_Ericsson) and [Apple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apple_Inc.).[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-37)[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-38) The company's shares also more than halved during the period[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-39) and caused large losses.[[40]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-40) Motorola managed to recover with the release of the [Motorola Droid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola_Droid) in late 2009 with [Verizon Wireless](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verizon_Wireless), which sold in good numbers and made the phone division profitable again by late 2010.[[41]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-41)

In 2007, Motorola acquired [Symbol Technologies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symbol_Technologies) to provide products and systems for enterprise mobility solutions, including rugged mobile computing, advanced data capture, and radio frequency identification (RFID).

In 2010, Motorola sold its cellular-infrastructure business to [Nokia Siemens Networks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nokia_Networks) for $1.2 billion.[[42]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-42)

In January 2011, Motorola split into two separate companies, each still using the word **Motorola** as part of its name. One company, [Motorola Solutions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola_Solutions) (using a blue version of the Motorola logo), is based in the Chicago suburb of Schaumburg, Illinois, and concentrates on police technologies, radios, and commercial needs. The other company, Motorola Mobility (using a red logo), is based in Chicago (formerly at 600 US-45, Libertyville, Illinois), and is the mobile handset producer. The split was structured so that Motorola Solutions was the legal successor of the original Motorola, while Motorola Mobility was the spin-off.

On August 15, 2011, Google announced that it would purchase Motorola Mobility for about $12.5 billion.[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-43) On November 17, 2011, Motorola Mobility stockholders “voted overwhelmingly to approve the proposed merger with Google Inc”.[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-44)

On May 22, 2012, Google announced that the acquisition of Motorola Mobility Holdings, Inc. had closed, with Google acquiring MMI for $40.00 per share in cash. ($12.5 billion)[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-45)

On October 30, 2014, Google sold off Motorola Mobility to Lenovo. The purchase price was approximately US$2.91 billion (subject to certain adjustments), including US$1.41 billion paid at close: US $660 million in cash and US$750 million in Lenovo ordinary shares (subject to a share cap/floor). The remaining US$1.5 billion was paid in the form of a three-year promissory note.[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-Google-Lenovo-46) After the purchase, Google maintained ownership of the vast majority of the Motorola Mobility patent portfolio, including current patent applications and invention disclosures, while Lenovo received a license to the portfolio of patents and other intellectual property. Additionally, Lenovo received over 2,000 patent assets, as well as the Motorola Mobility brand and trademark portfolio.[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motorola#cite_note-Google-Lenovo-46)