

Patrick Collison Biography

I chose to write the biography of Patrick Collison as he is someone who I find inspiring as he is from the same country as me and grew up in what I find unlikely circumstances. I have been following his story as it has progressed over the years and it made me feel that anyone can be able to achieve if he was able to.

Patrick Collison, the founder and current CEO of multibillion-dollar company, is an Irish Software Engineer and entrepreneur. He started learning computer about computers at the age of 8 and learning how to computer program at the age of 10. From the small town of Dromineer in rural Ireland, a place that is associated with farms more than technology and computers. Son of an electrical engineer he found school boring and was much more interested in what his dad taught him about maths and physics. Which I find it interesting that someone with this background would go on to become such a big name in software engineering.

He entered the young scientist exhibition in 2004, something that is close to home for me as it was something that I had the opportunity to compete in when I was in school and have attended the event. Then the following year he went on to win the 41st young scientist exhibition at the age of 16, showing his drive and entrepreneurial side as he had the motivation to better himself and come up with a new idea. This also demonstrated his versatility as a software engineer as his first entry was an artificial intelligence project which he followed up with by creating his own programming language for the project that was the eventual winner. These are two very different projects to create and show how good of a programmer he was at such a young age.

He went on to study in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology after receiving top marks in his leaving cert which he only studied for 20 days before the exams started. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology was ranked as the number 1 university in the world in the QS World University Rankings in 2018 showing how bright he was to get into the school. Eventually dropping out he returned to Ireland to start his first company in Limerick with his younger brother Jack. He named this company Shuppa which is supposed to sound like the Irish word 'siopa', meaning shop, which I believe showed that he is proud of his country and where he came from. However, this fell through due to a lack of investment and led to the decision of moving to san Francisco to merge

companies with 2 oxford graduates backed by Silicon Valley investors. This formed a new company called Auctomatic. This is something that I find inspiring as the world of Silicon Valley in san Francisco seems so far away and for a normal guy from Ireland to make it there shows that its possible for anyone to.

This company was then sold in 2008 making Patrick and his younger brother instant millionaires when he was aged only 19. Which was when I first became aware of him and his brother as they were making headlines in Ireland as this was unusual to happen in this country. The brothers also made it onto the Irish rich list as well as making several appearances on Irish media.

Then once again coming up with a new business idea him and his brother decided to solve the problem of businesses taking payments from customers through their websites. This was able to stop businesses having to hire software engineers to reinvent the wheel to build a payment processing feature. Stripe can provide these companies with APIs that can be easily integrated into the company's websites. These APIs are used among some of the biggest e-businesses in the world such as Amazon and Facebook.

He went back to san Francisco to start this company which was once again backed by Silicon Valley investors. This time by notable names such as PayPal co-founders Peter Thiel and Elon Musk. The company originally received \$2 million dollars through this investment and continued to grow before eventually going public. Stripe is now worth over \$9 billion making Patrick and his brother the world's youngest self-made billionaires.

References

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