

Paul Allen Biography

Co-founder of Microsoft, Paul Allen is a renowned American businessman, multi-billion dollar investor, owner of sports teams and a philanthropist. This biography offers detailed information on his childhood, life, career, achievements & timeline.

Quick Facts	
Also Known As	Paul Gardner Allen
Famous as	Co-founder of Microsoft, Philanthropist
Nationality	American
Born on	21 January 1953 AD
Height	1.78 m
Zodiac Sign	Aquarius
Born in	Seattle
Father	Kenneth S. Allen
Mother	Faye G. Allen
Siblings	Jody Patton
Education	Lakeside School, Washington State University
Founder/Co-Founder	Microsoft Corporation, Vulcan Inc, The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, The International SeaKeepers Society, Interval Research Corporation
Net worth	\$20.2 billion Jan 2017
Awards	2008 - Vanguard Award 1999 - Regents' Distinguished Alumnus Award 2008 - Herbie Hancock Humanitarian Award for visionary achievements 2011 - Seattle Sports Commission Sports Citizen of the Year



Paul Gardner Allen is the co-founder of Microsoft, a billionaire and a philanthropist. He was born and brought up in Seattle, Washington, by his Jew parents who were both librarians. He was always interested in science and computers and did his schooling from Lakeside School in Seattle. It was there that he met Bill Gates at the age of 14 and both the computer enthusiasts started to experiment with different languages and programs of computers. He is a Washington State University dropout and the one who convinced Gates to dropout from Harvard. Together they created Microsoft in 1975, in New Mexico. After the initial workings and handling the dealings of the company, Allen left the company because he was struggling with cancer and had to go through a series of painful radiation therapies. After recovering, he started investing in non-profit organizations for the benefit of the general public in the field of health and science. He is also owner of two professional sports teams in America. His famous and charitable philanthropist work has earned him many awards and accolades and he is known to be the kind of billionaire who likes to share his wealth with the needy. A well known recluse, he keeps his personal life very private.

Childhood & Early Life:

- Paul Allen was born on 21 January 1953 in Seattle, Washington, to Kenneth Samuel Allen and Edna Faye Allen. His father was an associate director of the University of Washington libraries. His mother also worked as a librarian.
- Allen's parents helped him and his sister Jody develop a wide variety of interests and used to take them to museums, galleries and concerts. He started showing great interest in science from an early age. When he was 10 years old, his mother, Faye used to hold science club meetings for his grade school.
- Allen went to the Lakeside School in Seattle - it was a private school and it is here that he met and became close friends with Bill Gates. At that time Allen was 14 years old and Gates was 12 and both were computer enthusiasts. It was in Lakeside's Teletype terminal that both the friends started to develop their programming skills on numerous time-sharing computer systems.

- Allen got admission into the Washington State University after scoring 1600 on his SAT but decided to discontinue his studies after two years in order to work for Honeywell in Boston, as a programmer. He also convinced his close friend and fellow computer enthusiast, Bill Gates, to drop out of Harvard University to work on an innovative project.

Career:

- In 1975, Allen and Gates started to market a BASIC computer programming language interpreter and co-founded Microsoft in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It was Allen who came up with the name 'Microsoft' for the company, as documented in a Fortune magazine article years later.
- In 1980, Allen materialized a deal for Microsoft to buy a Quick and Dirty Operating System, which was invented by Tim Paterson, an employ at the Seattle Computer Products. This deal led the company to develop Disk Operating System, which they delivered to IBM and ran it on IBM's PC line. The IBM deal made Allen and Gates rich and famous.
- In 1982, Allen was detected with Hodgkin's lymphoma and underwent several months of Chemotherapy. Due to his degrading health conditions Allen took himself away from the workings and businesses of Microsoft and resigned from his position on the Board of Directors in 2000. He was still the senior strategy advisor to the company's executives.
- In 1986, Allen founded the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation for the advancement of health and human services - his contribution to the development of science and technology. The foundation gives 30 million US dollars every year as grant to various humanitarian and scientific projects.
- In 1992, Allen and David Liddle founded the Interval Research Corporation. It was a Silicon Valley-based laboratory which was finally disbanded after making over 300 patents. Some of these are famous patent infringement lawsuits against big shot companies like Apple, Yahoo!, YouTube, Google, Facebook, Netflix, eBay, AOL, Office Depot, OfficeMax, etc.
- In 1993, Allen bought 80 percent of Ticketmaster by investing 243 million US dollars into it. Under his leadership, Ticketmaster was moved into internet in 1995 by showing searchable database and in 1996 its first transaction on the internet took place. The company was made public in the same year.
- Allen purchased his first professional sports team—the Seattle Seahawks NFL team—in 1996. The threat from the former owner of the team, Ken Behring, to Southern California inspired him to buy the team. In 1998, he purchased his second team the Portland Trail Blazers NBA for a sum of 70 million US dollars from a Californian real estate developer Larry Weinberg. By 2010, the Portland Trail Blazers were valued 356 million US Dollars and ranked at number 14 on NBA teams.
- In 2003, Faye G. Allen Center for Visual Arts was established in the Washington State University – it was named after Allen's mother. He also donated 14 million US dollars in the establishment of the Paul G. Allen Center for Computer Science & Engineering, which was designed by LMN Architects of Seattle. For years Allen donated a large sum of money to the University of Washington Medical School.

- In 2003, Allen, along with his sister Jo Lynn, founded the Allen Institute for Brain Science by donating 100 million US dollars to it. The data founded in the organization is free and publically available through Allen Brain Atlas application. It is a non-profit organization.
- In 2008, he established the Allen Spinal Cord Atlas online mouse gene map by investing 41 million US dollars into it. The project helps the researches to access the existing spinal cord research data to understand better how a disease or an injury can affect the spinal cord system. The map helps in unlocking new diagnoses for existing human neurological disorders by pointing at the places where the genes are active.
- In 2011, Allen announced the launch of the first private space transport system called the Stratolaunch Systems. It is a project for the orbital launch of a dual bodied jet aircraft which will carry a rocket to a high altitude. In the same year, his yacht Octopus was listed in the list of motor yachts and was named as the largest yacht in the world in 2003. The yacht has two helicopters, two submarines, a basketball court, swimming pool, etc.
- Allen, along with his sister Jo, is the co-owner and executive producer of a filmmaking production company in Seattle called Vulcan Productions. The aim of the company is to finance the innovative and depth oriented independent film projects. In 2011, the company financed a film called 'The Emotional Life' which was a documentary on the subject of psychology that inspects human desire and craves for happiness.
- In 2011, Allen's memoir was published under the title of 'Idea Man: A Memoir by the Cofounder of Microsoft' and in 2012 the paperback version of the memoir was released with a new epilogue. In the book he mentioned how he and Bill Gates developed Microsoft and how they were ready to launch the idea even when it initially sounded too superfluous.

Awards & Achievements:


- In 2008, Allen received an honor from the Seattle-King County Association of Realtors for his distinguishable commitment to the non-profit organizations in the Pacific Northwest and lifetime giving of around 1 billion US dollars.
- In the same year he received the Herbie Hancock Humanitarian Award from the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz for his innovative contribution to the business world and for being a global philanthropist.

Trivia:

- In his memoir, Allen mentioned that Bill Gates tried to rob him off his fair share from Microsoft when he was suffering from cancer.
- He is known by the names of 'Idea Man' and 'the bitter billionaire'.
- Allen has never married in his life but had his share of many girlfriends that he is very private about.

- He throws lavish parties but he is so obsessively private that he makes his guests sign a non-disclosure agreement.
- He is such a well-known recluse that he is known as the ‘Loch Ness Monster of the Internet Age’.
- He owns many fantastic homes, including a villa at Cap Ferrat in London’s Holland park and in New York.
- He was once famously connected romantically to Jerry Hall who joined him on his yacht to France after breaking up with Mick Jagger.
- Abbie Philips took Allen to the court for sexually assaulting her. He had hired her to run his film and TV production company called Storyopolis.
- Allen loves to play guitar.
- He once mentioned to his friend and author Douglas Adams that he feels frustrated with his wealth.


Quotes By Paul Allen



“For the most part, the best opportunities now lie where your competitors have yet to establish themselves, not where they're already entrenched. Microsoft is struggling to adapt to that new reality.”

Paul Allen

TheFamousPeople.com



"In a company where tech decisions were still ultracentralized, the repercussions of a distracted CEO had to be damaging."

Paul Allen

TheFamousPeople.com