PlayStation

PlayStation (Japanese : ????????? , Hepburn : Pureisut?shon , officially abbreviated PS) is a series of video game consoles created and owned by Sony Interactive Entertainment . The brand was first introduced on December 3 , 1994 in Japan with the launch of the original PlayStation console . It now consists of four home consoles , as well as a media center , an online service , a line of controllers , two handhelds and a phone , as well as multiple magazines .

The original console in the series , the PlayStation , was the first video game console to ship 100 million units , 9 years and 6 months after its initial launch . Its successor , the PlayStation 2 , was released in 2000 . The PlayStation 2 is the best @-@ selling home console to date , having reached over 155 million units sold as of December 28 , 2012 . Sony 's next console , the PlayStation 3 , was released in 2006 and has sold over 80 million consoles worldwide as of November 2013 . Sony 's latest console , the PlayStation 4 , was released in 2013 , selling 1 million consoles in its first 24 hours on sale , becoming the fastest selling console in history .

The first handheld game console in the PlayStation series (called the PlayStation Portable , or PSP) , sold a total of 80 million units worldwide by November 2013 . Its successor , the PlayStation Vita , which launched in Japan on December 17 , 2011 and in most other major territories in February 2012 , had sold over 4 million units by January 2013 . PlayStation TV is a microconsole and a non @-@ portable variant of the PlayStation Vita handheld game console . Other hardware released as part of the PlayStation series includes the PSX , a digital video recorder which was integrated with the PlayStation and PlayStation 2 , though it was short lived due to its high price and was never released outside Japan , as well as a Sony Bravia television set which has an integrated PlayStation 2 . The main series of controllers utilized by the PlayStation series is the DualShock , which is a line of vibration @-@ feedback gamepad having sold 28 million controllers as of June 28 , 2008 .

The PlayStation Network is an online service with over 110 million users worldwide (as of July 2013) . It comprises an online virtual market , the PlayStation Store , which allows the purchase and download of games and various forms of multimedia , a subscription @-@ based online service known as PlayStation Plus and a social gaming networking service called PlayStation Home , which had over 41 million users worldwide at the time of its closure in March 2015 . PlayStation Mobile (formerly PlayStation Suite) is a software framework that provides PlayStation content on mobile devices . Version 1.xx supports both PlayStation Vita , PlayStation TV and certain devices that run the Android operating system , whereas version 2 @.@ 00 released in 2014 would only target PlayStation Vita and (optionally) PlayStation TV . Content set to be released under the framework consist of only original PlayStation games currently .

7th generation PlayStation products also use the XrossMediaBar , which is an award @-@ winning graphical user interface . A new touch screen @-@ based user interface called LiveArea was launched for the PlayStation Vita , which integrates social networking elements into the interface . Additionally , PlayStation 2 and original PlayStation 3 consoles also featured support for Linux @-@ based operating systems , though this has since been discontinued . The series has also been known for its numerous marketing campaigns , the latest of which being the " Greatness Awaits " commercials in the United States .

The series also has a strong line @-@ up of first @-@ party titles due to Sony Interactive Entertainment Worldwide Studios , a group of fifteen first @-@ party developers owned by Sony Interactive Entertainment which are dedicated to developing first @-@ party games for the series . In addition , the series features various budget re @-@ releases of titles by Sony with different names for each region ; these include the Greatest Hits , Platinum , Essentials , Favorites (this in Latin America) and The Best ranges of titles .

History

Origins

PlayStation was the brainchild of Ken Kutaragi , a Sony executive who had just finished managing one of the company 's hardware engineering divisions at that time and would later be dubbed as " The Father of the PlayStation " .

The console 's origins date back to 1988 where it was originally a joint project between Nintendo and Sony to create a CD @-@ ROM for the Super Famicom . Although Nintendo denied the existence of the Sony deal as late as March 1991 , Sony revealed a Super Famicom with a built @-@ in CD @-@ ROM drive , that incorporated Green Book technology or CD @-@ i , called " Play Station " (also known as SNES @-@ CD) at the Consumer Electronics Show in June 1991 . However , a day after the announcement at CES , Nintendo announced that it would be breaking its partnership with Sony , opting to go with Philips instead but using the same technology . The deal was broken by Nintendo after they were unable to come to an agreement on how revenue would be split between the two companies . The breaking of the partnership infuriated Sony President Norio Ohga , who responded by appointing Kutaragi with the responsibility of developing the PlayStation project to rival Nintendo .

At that time , negotiations were still on @-@ going between Nintendo and Sony , with Nintendo offering Sony a " non @-@ gaming role " regarding their new partnership with Philips . This proposal was swiftly rejected by Kutaragi who was facing increasing criticism over his work with regard to entering the video game industry from within Sony . Negotiations officially ended in May 1992 and in order to decide the fate of the PlayStation project , a meeting was held in June 1992 , consisting of Sony President Ohga , PlayStation Head Kutaragi and several senior members of Sony 's board . At the meeting , Kutaragi unveiled a proprietary CD @-@ ROM @-@ based system he had been working on which involved playing video games with 3D graphics to the board . Eventually , Sony President Ohga decided to retain the project after being reminded by Kutaragi of the humiliation he suffered from Nintendo . Nevertheless , due to strong opposition from a majority present at the meeting as well as widespread internal opposition to the project by the older generation of Sony executives , Kutaragi and his team had to be shifted from Sony 's headquarters to Sony Music , a completely separate financial entity owned by Sony , so as to retain the project and maintain relationships with Philips for the MMCD development project (which helped lead to the creation of the DVD) .

According to SCE 's producer Ryoji Akagawa and chairman Shigeo Maruyama , there was uncertainty over whether the console should primarily focus on 2D sprite graphics or 3D polygon graphics . It was only after witnessing the success of Sega 's Virtua Fighter in Japanese arcades that " the direction of the PlayStation became instantly clear " and 3D polygon graphics became the console 's primary focus .

= = = Formation of Sony Computer Entertainment = = =

At Sony Music , Kutaragi worked closely with Shigeo Maruyama , the CEO of Sony Music , and with Akira Sato to form Sony Computer Entertainment , Inc . (SCEI) on November 16 , 1993 . A building block of SCEI was its initial partnership with Sony Music which helped SCEI attract creative talent to the company as well as assist SCEI in manufacturing , marketing and producing discs , something that Sony Music had been doing with Music Discs . The final two key members of SCEI were Terry Tokunaka , the President of SCEI from Sony 's headquarters , and Olaf Olafsson . Olafsson was CEO and president of New York @-@ based Sony Interactive Entertainment which was the mother company for the 1994 @-@ founded Sony Computer Entertainment of America (SCEA) .

The PlayStation project , SCEI 's first official project , was finally given the green light by Sony executives in 1993 after a few years of development . Also in 1993 , Phil Harrison , who would later become President of Sony Computer Entertainment Worldwide Studios , was recruited into SCEI to attract developers and publishers to produce games for their new PlayStation platform .

After a demonstration of Sony 's distribution plan as well as tech demos of its new console to game publishers and developers in a hotel in Tokyo in 1994 , numerous developers began to approach PlayStation . Two of whom later became major partners were Electronic Arts in the West and Namco in Japan . One of the factors which attracted developers to the platform was the use of a 3D

@-@ capable , CD @-@ ROM @-@ based console which was much cheaper and easier to manufacture for in comparison to Nintendo 's rival console , which used cartridge systems . The project eventually hit Japanese stores in December 1994 and gained massive sales due to its lower price point than its competitor , the Sega Saturn . Popularity of the console spread after its release worldwide in North America and Europe .

Home consoles

PlayStation

The original PlayStation , released on December 3 , 1994 , was the first of the ubiquitous PlayStation series of console and hand @-@ held game devices . It has included successor consoles and upgrades including the Net Yaroze (a special black PlayStation with tools and instructions to program PlayStation games and applications) , " PSone " (a smaller version of the original) and the PocketStation (a handheld which enhances PlayStation games and also acts as a memory card) . It was part of the fifth generation of video game consoles competing against the Sega Saturn and the Nintendo 64 . By December 2003 , the PlayStation and PSone had shipped a combined total of 102 @.@ 49 million units , eventually becoming the first video game console to sell 120 million units .

PSone

Released on July 7 , 2000 , concurrently with its successor the PlayStation 2 , the PSone was a considerably smaller , redesigned version of the original PlayStation video game console . The PSone went on to outsell all @-@ other consoles , including its successor , throughout the remainder of the year . It featured two main changes from its predecessor , the first being a cosmetic change to the console and the second being the home menu 's Graphical User Interface ; a variation of the GUI previously used only on PAL consoles up to that point .

PlayStation 2

Released in 2000 , 15 months after the Dreamcast and a year before its other competitors , the Xbox and the Nintendo GameCube , the PlayStation 2 is part of the sixth generation of video game consoles , and is backwards @-@ compatible with most original PlayStation games . Like its predecessor , it has received a slimmer redesign , and was also released built into the PSX DVR and the Sony BRAVIA KDL22PX300 HDTV . It is the most successful home console in the world , having sold over 155 million units sold as of December 28 , 2012 . On November 29 , 2005 , the PS2 became the fastest game console to reach 100 million units shipped , accomplishing the feat within 5 years and 9 months from its launch . This achievement occurred faster than its predecessor , the PlayStation , which took " 9 years and 6 months since launch " to reach the same figure . PlayStation 2 shipments in Japan ended on December 28 , 2012 . The Guardian reported on January 4 , 2013 that PS2 production had ended worldwide . But studies show that many people all around the world still own one even if it is no longer in use . PlayStation 2 has been ranked as the best selling console of all time as of 2015 .

Slimline model

Released in 2004 , four years after the launch of the original PlayStation 2 , the PlayStation 2 Slimline was the first major redesign of the PlayStation 2 . Compared to its predecessor , the Slimline was smaller , thinner , quieter and also included a built @-@ in Ethernet port (in some markets it also has an integrated modem) . In 2007 , Sony began shipping a revision of the Slimline which was lighter than the original Slimline together with a lighter AC adapter . In 2008 , Sony

released yet another revision of the Slimline which had an overhauled internal design incorporating the power supply into the console itself like the original PlayStation 2 resulting in a further reduced total weight of the console .

PlayStation 3

Released on November 17 , 2006 in North America , the PlayStation 3 is a seventh generation game console from Sony . It competes with the Microsoft Xbox 360 and the Nintendo Wii . The PS3 is the first console in the series to introduce the use of motion @-@ sensing technology through its Sixaxis wireless controller . The console also incorporates a Blu @-@ ray Disc player and features high @-@ definition resolution . The PS3 was originally offered with either a 20 GB or 60 GB hard drive , but over the years its capacity increased in increments available up to 500 GB . The PlayStation 3 has sold over 80 million consoles worldwide as of November 2013 .

Slim model

Like its predecessors , the PlayStation 3 was re @-@ released in 2009 as a " slim " model . The redesigned model is 33 % smaller , 36 % lighter , and consumes 34 % to 45 % less power than previous models . In addition , it features a redesigned cooling system and a smaller Cell processor which was moved to a 45nm manufacturing process . It sold in excess of a million units within its first 3 weeks on sale . The redesign also features support for CEC (more commonly referred to by its manufacturer brandings of BraviaSync , VIERA Link , EasyLink and others) which allows control of the console over HDMI by using the remote control as the controller . The PS3 slim also runs quieter and is cooler than previous models due to its 45 nm Cell . The PS3 Slim no longer has the " main power " switch (similar to PlayStation 2 slim) , like the previous PS3 models , which was located at the back of the console . It was officially released on September 1 , 2009 in North America and Europe and on September 3 , 2009 in Japan , Australia and New Zealand .

Super Slim model

In 2012 , Sony revealed a new " Super Slim " PlayStation 3 . The new console , with a completely redesigned case which has a sliding door covering the disc drive (which has been moved to the top of the console) , is 4 @.@ 3 pounds , almost three pounds lighter than the previous " slim " model . The console comes with either 12GB flash memory or a 250GB , 500GB hard drive . Several bundles which include a Super Slim PS3 and a selection of games are available .

PlayStation 4

The PlayStation 4 (PS4) is the latest video game console from Sony Computer Entertainment announced at a press conference on February 20 , 2013 . In the meeting , Sony revealed some hardware specifications of the new console . The eighth @-@ generation system , launched in the fourth quarter of 2013 , introduced the x86 architecture to the PlayStation series . According to lead system architect , Mark Cerny , development on the PlayStation 4 began as early as 2008 . PlayStation Europe CEO Jim Ryan emphasized in 2011 that Sony wanted to avoid launching the next @-@ generation console behind the competition .
Among the new applications and services , Sony introduced the PlayStation App , allowing PS4 owners to turn smartphones and tablets into a second screen to enhance gameplay . The company also plans to debut PlayStation Now game streaming service , powered by technology from Gaikai . By incorporating a share button on the new controller and making it possible to view in @-@ game content being streamed live from friends , Sony plans to place more focus on social gameplay as well . The PlayStation 4 was first released in North America on November 15 , 2013 .

Comparison

= = Handheld systems = =

= = = PocketStation = = =

The PocketStation was a miniature game console created by SCE as a peripheral for the original PlayStation . Released exclusively in Japan on December 23 , 1999 , it featured a monochrome LCD , a speaker , a real @-@ time clock and infrared communication capability . It could also be used as a standard PlayStation memory card by connecting it to a PlayStation memory card slot . It was extremely popular in Japan and Sony originally had plans to release it in the United States but the plan was ultimately scrapped due to various manufacturing and supply @-@ and @-@ demand problems .

= = = PlayStation Portable = = =

The PlayStation Portable (PSP) was Sony 's first handheld console to compete with Nintendo 's DS console . The original model (PSP @-@ 1000) was released in December 2004 and March 2005 , The console is the first to utilize a new proprietary optical storage medium known as Universal Media Disc (UMD) , which can store both games and movies . It contains 32 MB of internal flash memory storage , expandable via Memory Stick PRO Duo cards . It has a similar control layout to the PS3 with its PlayStation logo button and its (' Triangle ') , (' Circle / O ') , (' Cross / X ') and (' Square ') buttons in their white @-@ colored forms .

= = = = PSP @-@ 2000 and PSP @-@ 3000 models = = = =

The PSP @-@ 2000 (also known as the Slim & Lite in PAL territories) was the first major hardware revision of the PlayStation Portable , released in September 2007 . The 2000 series was 33 % lighter and 19 % slimmer than the original PlayStation Portable . The capacity of the battery was also reduced by ? but the run time remained the same as the previous model due to lower power consumption . Older model batteries will still work and they extend the amount of playing time . The PSP Slim & Lite has a new gloss finish . Its serial port was also modified in order to accommodate a new video @-@ out feature (while rendering older PSP remote controls incompatible) . On a PSP @-@ 2000 , PSP games will only output to external monitors or TVs in progressive scan mode , so that televisions incapable of supporting progressive scan will not display PSP games ; non @-@ game video will output in either progressive or interlaced mode . USB charging was also made possible . Buttons are also reportedly more responsive on the PSP @-@ 2000 . In 2008 , Sony released a second hardware revision called the PSP @-@ 3000 which included several features that were not present in the PSP @-@ 2000 , such as a built @-@ in microphone and upgraded screen , as well as the ability to output PSP games in interlaced mode .

= = = = PSP Go model = = = =

Released in October 2009 , the PSP Go is the biggest redesign of the PlayStation Portable to date . Unlike previous PSP models , the PSP Go does not feature a UMD drive but instead has 16 GB of internal flash memory to store games , videos and other media . This can be extended by up to 32GB with the use of a Memory Stick Micro (M2) flash card . Also unlike previous PSP models , the PSP Go 's rechargeable battery is not removable or replaceable by the user . The unit is 43 % lighter and 56 % smaller than the original PSP @-@ 1000 , and 16 % lighter and 35 % smaller than the PSP @-@ 3000 . It has a 3 @.@ 8 " 480 × 272 LCD (compared to the larger 4 @.@ 3 " 480 × 272 pixel LCD on previous PSP models) . The screen slides up to reveal the main controls . The overall shape and sliding mechanism are similar to that of Sony 's mylo COM @-@ 2 internet device

. The PSP Go is being produced and sold concurrently with its predecessor the PSP @-@ 3000 although it will not replace it . All games on the PSP Go must be purchased and downloaded from the PlayStation Store as the handheld is not compatible with the original PSP 's physical media , the Universal Media Disc . The handheld also features connectivity with the PlayStation 3 's controllers the Sixaxis and DualShock 3 via Bluetooth connection .

PSP @-@ E1000 model

The PSP @-@ E1000 is a budget @-@ focused PSP model which , unlike previous PSP models , does not feature Wi @-@ Fi or stereo speakers (replaced by a single mono speaker) and has a matte " charcoal black " finish similar to the slim PlayStation 3 . The E1000 was announced at Gamescom 2011 and available across the PAL region for an RRP of ? 99 @.@ 99 .

PlayStation Vita

Released in Japan on December 17 , 2011 and North America on February 22 , 2012 , the PlayStation Vita was previously codenamed Next Generation Portable (NGP) . It was officially unveiled by Sony on January 27 , 2011 at the PlayStation Meeting 2011 . The original model of the handheld , the PCH @-@ 1000 series features a 5 @-@ inch OLED touchscreen , two analog sticks , a rear touchpad , Sixaxis motion sensing and a 4 core ARM Cortex @-@ A9 MPCore processor .
The new PCH @-@ 2000 series system is a lighter redesign of the device that was announced at the SCEJA Press Conference in September 2013 prior to the Tokyo Game Show . This model is 20 % thinner and 15 % lighter compared to the original model , has an additional hour of battery life , an LCD instead of OLED , includes a micro USB Type B port , 1GB of internal storage memory . It was released in Japan on October 10 , 2013 in six colors : white , black , pink , yellow , blue , and olive green , and in North America on May 6 , 2014 .

Other hardware

PSX (2003)

Released solely in Japan in 2003 , the Sony PSX was a fully integrated DVR and PlayStation 2 video game console . It was the first Sony product to utilize the XrossMediaBar (XMB) and can be linked with a PlayStation Portable to transfer videos and music via USB . It also features software for video , photo and audio editing . PSX supports online game compatibility using an internal broadband adapter . Games that utilize the PS2 HDD (for example , Final Fantasy XI) are supported as well . It was the first product released by Sony under the PlayStation brand that did not include a controller with the device itself .

Television sets

Released in 2010 , the Sony BRAVIA KDL22PX300 is a 22 inch 720p television which incorporates a PlayStation 2 console , along with 4 HDMI ports .
A 24 inch 1080p PlayStation branded 3D television , officially called the PlayStation 3D Display , was released in late 2011 . A feature of this 3D television is SimulView . During multiplayer games , each player will only see their respective screen (in full HD) appear on the television through their respective 3D glasses , instead of seeing a split screen (e.g. player 1 will only see player 1 's screen displayed through their 3D glasses) .

Sony Ericsson Xperia Play

The Xperia Play is an Android @-@ powered smartphone with a slide @-@ up gamepad

resembling the PSP Go developed by Sony Ericsson aimed at gamers , and is the first to be PlayStation Certified . Also can download PlayStation Suite App .

Sony Tablets

Sony Tablets are PlayStation Certified Android tablets , released in 2011 , 2012 , and 2013 . They offer connectivity with PlayStation 3 controllers , and integrate with the PlayStation network using a proprietary application . The following models were released between 2011 and 2013 : S , Sony Tablet S , Sony Tablet P , Xperia Tablet S and Xperia Tablet Z.

PlayStation TV

PlayStation TV , known in Asia as PlayStation Vita TV , is a microconsole and a non @-@ portable variant of the PlayStation Vita handheld . It was announced on September 9 , 2013 at a Sony Computer Entertainment Japan presentation . Instead of featuring a display screen , the console connects to a television via HDMI . Users can play using a DualShock 3 controller , although due to the difference in features between the controller and the handheld , certain games are not compatible with PS TV , such as those that are dependent on the system 's touch @-@ screen , rear touchpad , microphone or camera . The device is said to be compatible with over 100 Vita games , as well as various digital PlayStation Portable , PlayStation and PC Engine titles . The system supports Remote Play compatibility with the PlayStation 4 , allowing players to stream games from the PS4 to a separate TV connected to PS TV , and also allows users to stream content from video services such as Hulu and Niconico , as well as access the PlayStation Store . The system was released in Japan on November 14 , 2013 , in North America on October 14 , 2014 , and in Europe and Australasia on November 14 , 2014 .

PlayStation VR

PlayStation VR is an upcoming virtual reality device that is produced by Sony Computer Entertainment . It makes two sets of images , one being visible on a TV and one for the headset . The PlayStation VR includes 3D audio technology so you can hear from all angles . Some of the prominent features for the PlayStation VR is that it includes a 5 @.@ 7 inch 1920 X RGB X 1080 resolution OLED display . It also can handle 120fps which can eliminate blur and produce a smooth image . The device is also known for its low latency build to less than 18ms . The speculated date of release is October 2016 .

Games

Each console has a variety of games . Most games released on the original PlayStation are backwards compatible and can be played directly on its successors , the PlayStation 2 , PSX and PlayStation 3 . Some of these games can also be played on the PlayStation Portable but they must be purchased and downloaded from a list of PSone Classics from the PlayStation Store . Games released on the PlayStation 2 can currently only be played on the original console as well as the PSX and the early models of the PlayStation 3 which are backwards compatible . The PlayStation 3 has two types of games , those released on Blu @-@ ray Discs and downloadable games from the PlayStation Store . The PlayStation Portable consists of numerous games available on both its physical media , the Universal Media Disc and the Digital Download from the PlayStation Store . However , some games are only available on the UMD while others are only available on the PlayStation Store . The PlayStation Vita consists of games available on both its physical media , the PlayStation Vita card and digital download from the PlayStation Store .

First party games

Sony Computer Entertainment Worldwide Studios is a group of video game developers owned by Sony Computer Entertainment . It is dedicated to developing video games exclusively for the PlayStation series of consoles . The series has produced several best @-@ selling franchises such as the Gran Turismo series of racing video games as well as critically acclaimed titles such as the Uncharted series . Other notable franchises include God of War , Twisted Metal and more recently , LittleBigPlanet (series) , InFAMOUS , and MotorStorm .

= = = Re @-@ releases = = =

Greatest Hits (North America) , Platinum Range (PAL territories) and The Best (Japan and Asia) are video games for the Sony PlayStation , PlayStation 2 , PlayStation 3 , and PlayStation Portable consoles that have been officially re @-@ released at a lower price by Sony . Each region has its own qualifications to enter the re @-@ release program . Initially , during the PlayStation era , a game had to sell at least 150 @,@ 000 copies (later 250 @,@ 000) and be on the market for at least a year to enter the Greatest Hits range . During the PlayStation 2 era , the requirements increased with the minimum number of copies sold increasing to 400 @,@ 000 and the game had to be on the market for at least 9 months . For the PlayStation Portable , games had to be on the market for at least 9 months with 250 @,@ 000 copies or more sold . Currently , a PlayStation 3 game must be on the market for 10 months and sell at least 500 @,@ 000 copies to meet the Greatest Hits criteria . PSone Classics were games that were released originally on the PlayStation and have been re @-@ released on the PlayStation Store for the PlayStation 3 and PlayStation Portable . Classics HD are compilations of PlayStation 2 games that have been remastered for the PlayStation 3 on a single disc with additional features such as upscaled graphics , PlayStation Move support , 3D support and PlayStation Network trophies . PlayStation Mobile (formerly PlayStation Suite) is a cross @-@ platform , cross @-@ device software framework aimed at providing PlayStation content , currently original PlayStation games , across several devices including PlayStation Certified Android devices as well as the PlayStation Vita .

= = Online services = =

= = = PlayStation 2 online service = = =

Online gaming on PlayStation consoles first started in July 2001 with the release of PlayStation 2 's unnamed online service in Japan . Later in August 2002 saw its release in North America , followed by the European release in June 2003 . This service was shutdown on the 31st of March 2016 .

= = = PlayStation Network = = =

Released in 2006 , the PlayStation Network is an online service focusing on online multiplayer gaming and digital media delivery . The service is provided and run by Sony Computer Entertainment for use with the PlayStation 3 , and was later implemented on the PlayStation Portable , PlayStation Vita and PlayStation 4 video game consoles . The service currently has over 110 million users worldwide (as of July 2013) . The Sony Entertainment Network provides other features for users like PlayStation Home , PlayStation Store , and Trophies .

= = = PlayStation Store = = =

The PlayStation Store is an online virtual market available to users of the PlayStation 3 and PlayStation Portable game consoles via the PlayStation Network . The store uses both physical currency and PlayStation Network Cards . The PlayStation Store 's gaming content is updated every Tuesday and offers a range of downloadable content both for purchase and available free of charge . Available content includes full games , add @-@ on content , playable demos , themes and game

and movie trailers . The service is accessible through an icon on the XMB on the PS3 and PSP . The PS3 store can also be accessed on the PSP via a Remote Play connection to the PS3 . The PSP store is also available via the PC application , Media Go . As of September 24 , 2009 , there have been over 600 million downloads from the PlayStation Store worldwide .

Video content such as films and television shows are also available from the PlayStation Store on the PlayStation 3 and PSP and will be made available on some new Sony BRAVIA televisions , VAIO laptop computers and Sony Blu @-@ ray Disc players from February 2010 .

= = = Life with PlayStation = = =

Life with PlayStation was a Folding @ home application available for PlayStation 3 which connected to Stanford University ? s Folding @ home distributed computer network and allowed the user to donate their console 's spare processing cycles to the project . Folding @ home is supported by Stanford University and volunteers make a contribution to society by donating computing power to this project . Research made by the project may eventually contribute to the creation of vital cures . The Folding @ home client was developed by Sony Computer Entertainment in collaboration with Stanford University . Life with PlayStation also consisted of a 3D virtual view of the Earth and contained current weather and news information of various cities and countries from around the world , as well as a World Heritage channel which offered information about historical sites , and the United Village channel which is a project designed to share information about communities and cultures worldwide . As of PlayStation 3 system software update version 4 @.@ 30 on October 24 , 2012 , the Life With PlayStation project has ended .

= = = PlayStation Plus = = =

PlayStation Plus , a subscription @-@ based service on the PlayStation Network , compliments the standard PSN services . It enables an auto @-@ download feature which allows the console to automatically download game patches and system software updates . Subscribers also gain early or exclusive access to some betas , game demos , premium downloadable content (such as full game trials of retail games like Infamous and LittleBigPlanet) and other PlayStation Store items , as well as a free subscription to Qore . Other downloadable items include PlayStation Store discounts and free PlayStation Network games , PSone Classics , PlayStation Minis , themes and avatars .

= = = PlayStation Blog = = =

PlayStation Blog is an online PlayStation focused gaming blog which is part of the PlayStation Network . It was launched on June 11 , 2007 and since its launch , has featured in numerous interviews with third @-@ party companies such as Square Enix . It also has posts from high @-@ ranking Sony Computer Entertainment executives such as Jack Tretton , President and Chief Executive Officer of Sony Computer Entertainment . A sub @-@ site of the blog called PlayStation Blog Share was launched on March 17 , 2010 and allowed readers of the blog as well as users of the PlayStation Blog to submit ideas to the PlayStation team about anything PlayStation @-@ related and vote on the ideas of other submissions .

= = = PlayStation App = = =

The PlayStation App is an application that was released on January 11 , 2011 in several European countries for iOS (version 4 and above) and for Android (version 1 @.@ 6 and above) , and has been installed more than 3 @.@ 6 million times as of March 2 , 2014 . It allows users to view their trophies , see which of their PSN friends are online and read up to date information about PlayStation . It does not feature any gaming functionality .

= = = PlayStation Mobile = = =

The PlayStation Mobile (formerly PlayStation Suite) is a software framework that will be used to provide downloadable PlayStation content to devices running Android 2 @.@ 3 and above as well as the PlayStation Vita . The framework will be cross @-@ platform and cross @-@ device , which is what Sony calls " hardware @-@ neutral " . It is currently set to release before the end of calendar year 2011 . In addition , Android devices that have been certified to be able to play back PlayStation Suite content smoothly will be certified with the PlayStation Certified certification .

= = = PlayStation Now = = =

PlayStation Now (PS Now) is a Gaikai @-@ based video game streaming service used to provide PlayStation gaming content to PlayStation 3 (PS3) , PlayStation 4 (PS4) , PlayStation Vita , PlayStation TV and BRAVIA televisions . The service currently allows users to pay for access to a selection of original PlayStation 3 titles on either a per @-@ game basis or via a subscription . PlayStation Now was announced on January 7 , 2014 at the 2014 Consumer Electronic Show . At CES , Sony presented demos of The Last of Us , God of War : Ascension , Puppeteer and Beyond : Two Souls , playable through PS Now on Bravia TVs and PlayStation Vitas . PlayStation Now was launched in Open Beta in the United States and Canada on PS4 on July 31 , 2014 , on PS3 on September 18 , 2014 , on PS Vita and PS TV on October 14 , 2014 , with support for select 2014 Bravia TVs coming later in the year .

= = = Online social networking services = = =

= = = = PlayStation Home = = = =

PlayStation Home is a community @-@ based social gaming networking service for the PlayStation 3 on the PlayStation Network (PSN) . It is available directly from the PlayStation 3 XrossMediaBar . Membership is free , and only requires a PSN account . Home has been in development since early 2005 and started an open public beta test on December 11 , 2008 . Home allows users to create a custom avatar , which can be made to suit the user 's preference . Users can decorate their avatar 's personal apartment (" HomeSpace ") with default , bought , or won items . They can travel throughout the Home world (except cross region) , which is constantly updated by Sony and partners . Each part of the world is known as a space . Public spaces can just be for display , fun , or for meeting people . Home features many mini @-@ games which can be single player or multiplayer . Users can shop for new items to express themselves more through their avatars or HomeSpace . Home features video screens in many places for advertising , but the main video content is shown at the theatre for entertainment . Home plays host to a variety of special events which range from prize @-@ giving events to entertaining events . Users can also use Home to connect with friends and customize content . Xi , a once notable feature of Home , is the world 's first console based Alternate Reality Game that took place in secret areas in Home and was created by nDreams .

= = = = Room for PlayStation Portable = = = =

" Room " (officially spelled as R ? M with capital letters and the infinity symbol in place of the " oo ") was being beta tested in Japan from October 2009 to April 2010 . Development of Room has been halted on April 15 , 2010 due to negative feedback from the community . Announced at TGS 2009 , it was supposed to be a similar service to the PlayStation Home and was being developed for the PSP . Launching directly from the PlayStation Network section of the XMB was also to be enabled . Just like in Home , PSP owners would have been able to invite other PSP owners into their rooms to " enjoy real time communication . " A closed beta test had begun in Q4 2009 in Japan .

= = Software = =

= = = XrossMediaBar = = =

The XrossMediaBar , originally used on the PSX , is a graphical user interface currently used for the PlayStation 3 and PlayStation Portable , as well as a variety of other Sony devices . The interface features icons that are spread horizontally across the screen . Navigation moves the icons instead of a cursor . These icons are used as categories to organize the options available to the user . When an icon is selected on the horizontal bar , several more appear vertically , above and below it (selectable by the up and down directions on a directional pad) . The XMB can also be accessed in @-@ game albeit with restrictions , it allows players to access certain areas of the XMB menu from within the game and is only available for the PlayStation 3 . Although the capacity to play users ' own music in @-@ game was added with this update , the feature is dependent on game developers who must either enable the feature in their games or update existing games .

= = = LiveArea = = =

LiveArea , designed to be used on the PlayStation Vita , is a graphical user interface set to incorporate various social networking features via the PlayStation Network . It has been designed specifically as a touchscreen user interface for users .

= = = Linux operating systems = = =

= = = = Linux for PlayStation 2 = = = =

In 2002 , Sony released the first useful and fully functioning operating system for a video game console , after the Net Yaroze experiment for the original PlayStation . The kit , which included an internal hard disk drive and the necessary software tools , turned the PlayStation 2 into a full @-@ fledged computer system running Linux . Users can utilize a network adapter to connect the PlayStation 2 to the internet , a monitor cable adaptor to connect the PlayStation 2 to computer monitors as well as a USB Keyboard and Mouse which can be used to control Linux on the PlayStation 2 .

= = = = Linux for PlayStation 3 = = = =

The PlayStation 3 (excluding PlayStation 3 Slim) also supports running Linux OS on firmwares prior to 3 @.@ 21 without the need for buying additional hardware purchase . Yellow Dog Linux provides an official distribution that can be downloaded , and other distributions such as Fedora , Gentoo and Ubuntu have been successfully installed and operated on the console . The use of Linux on the PlayStation 3 allowed users to access 6 of the 7 Synergistic Processing Elements ; Sony implemented a hypervisor restricting access to the RSX . The feature to install a second operating system on a PlayStation 3 was removed in a firmware update released in 2010 .

= = Controllers = =

= = = Early PlayStation controllers = = =

Released in 1994 , the PlayStation control pad was the first controller made for the original PlayStation . It featured a basic design of a D @-@ pad , 4 main select buttons ((' Green Triangle ') , (' Red Circle / Red O ')) , (' Blue Cross / Blue X ') and (' Pink Square ') , and start and select

buttons on the face . ' Shoulder buttons ' are also featured on the top [L1 , L2 , R1 , R2] (named by the side [L = Left , R = Right] and 1 and 2 [top and bottom]) . In 1996 , Sony released the PlayStation Analog Joystick for use with flight simulation games . The original digital controller was then replaced by the Dual Analog in 1997 , which added two analog sticks based on the same potentiometer technology as the Analog Joystick . This controller was then also succeeded by the DualShock controller .

= = = DualShock series and Sixaxis = = =

Released in 1998 , the DualShock controller for the PlayStation succeeded its predecessor , the Dual Analog , and would go on to become the longest running series of controllers for the PlayStation brand . In addition to the inputs of the original , digital , controller (, , , , L1 , L2 , R1 , R2 , Start , Select and a D @-@ pad) , the DualShock featured two analog sticks in a similar fashion to the previous Dual Analog controller , which can also be depressed to activate the L3 and R3 buttons .

The DualShock series consists of four controllers : the DualShock which was the fourth controller released for the PlayStation ; the DualShock 2 , the only standard controller released for the PlayStation 2 , and the DualShock 3 , the second and current controller released for the PlayStation 3 , and the DualShock 4 , which went through a massive redesign and is the default input of the PlayStation 4 , and upon release was compatible with the PS3 originally only via USB and eventually with a firmware update , Bluetooth connectivity was enabled . The Sixaxis was the first official controller for the PlayStation 3 , and is based on the same design as the DualShock series (but lacking the vibration motors of the DualShock series of controllers) .

Like the Dual Analog , the DualShock and DualShock 2 feature an " Analog " button between the analog sticks that toggles the analog sticks on and off (for use with games which support only the digital input of the original controller) . On the PlayStation 3 Sixaxis and DualShock 3 controllers , the analog sticks are always enabled . Beginning with the Sixaxis , a ' PlayStation button ' (which featured the incorporated PS logo and is similar in function to the Xbox 360 " Guide " button) was included on controllers . The PlayStation button replaces the " Analog " button of the DualShock and DualShock 2 controllers . Pressing the PS button on the PS3 brings up the XMB , while holding it down brings up system options (such as quit the game , change controller settings , turn off the system , and turn off the controller) .

= = = PlayStation Move = = =

PlayStation Move is a motion @-@ sensing game controller platform for the PlayStation 3 video game console by Sony Computer Entertainment (SCE) . Based on the handheld motion controller wand , PlayStation Move uses the PlayStation Eye webcam to track the wand 's position and the inertial sensors in the wand to detect its motion . First revealed on June 2 , 2009 , PlayStation Move was launched in Q3 / Q4 2010 . Hardware available at launch included the main PlayStation Move motion controller and an optional PlayStation Move sub @-@ controller . Although PlayStation Move is implemented on the existing PlayStation 3 console , Sony states that it is treating Move 's debut as its own major " platform launch " , planning an aggressive marketing campaign to support it . In addition to selling the controllers individually , Sony also plans to provide several different bundle options for PlayStation Move hardware ; including a starter kit with a PS Eye , a Move motion controller , and a demo / sampler disc , priced under US $ 100 ; a full console pack with a PS3 console , DualShock 3 gamepad , PS Eye , and Move motion controller ; and bundles of a Move motion controller with select games .

= = Media = =

= = = Magazines = = =

The PlayStation brand has a wide series of magazines , from across different continents , covering PlayStation related articles and stories . Many of these magazines work closely with Sony and thus often come with demo discs for PlayStation games . Currently there are three magazines still in circulation namely PlayStation : The Official Magazine , PlayStation Official Magazine , Official PlayStation Magazine (Australia) . However , over the years , many PlayStation magazines have spawned while a few have also become defunct , these include the Official U.S. PlayStation Magazine , Official UK PlayStation Magazine , Official UK PlayStation 2 Magazine .

= = = CD ROM Magazine = = =

PlayStation Underground was a non @-@ traditional magazine that Sony Computer Entertainment America produced and published between Spring 1997 to Spring 2001 . Subscribers received two PlayStation CDs , along with a booklet and colorful packaging every quarter . The CDs contained interviews , cheats , programmers moves , game demos and one @-@ of @-@ a @-@ kind Memory Card saves . Several issues showed how a game was created from basic design to final product . Since the CDs could only be run on a PlayStation , it proved a useful marketing tool which spawned a line of PlayStation Underground JamPacks Demo CDs and which contained highlights from recent issues of PlayStation Underground , along with seemingly as many game demos that could be packed on a single CD . Unlike PlayStation Underground these were available in most stores for $ 4 @.@ 95 , were published twice a year in Summer and Winter and usually spotlighted newly released or coming soon games . By 2001 , Sony had decided to phase out Underground to focus on the JamPacks with the release of the PlayStation 2 . PlayStation Underground CDs are mainly in the hands of collectors these days .

= = Marketing = =

The PlayStation has been known for several advertising campaigns .

= = = Slogans = = =

Advertising slogans used for each PlayStation console iteration :
PlayStation
" eNoS Lives " (The first letter ' E ' was printed in red to denote the word , ready . Enos stood for Ready , Ninth of September)
" U R Not e " (The letter ' E ' was printed in red to denote the word , ready , as in You Are Not Ready)
" Do Not Underestimate The Power of PlayStation . " (From the S.A.P.S. - Society Against PlayStation ? series of adverts)
" Playstation " (Seen on several PlayStation systems and games commercials)
PSone
" Wherever , Whenever , Forever . "
PlayStation 2
" The Beginning . "
" Live In Yur Wrld , Ply In urs . " (The PlayStation face button icons were used to denote certain letters : Live In Your World , Play In Ours)
" (Welcome to the) Third Place . "
" Fun , Anyone ? "
" The ultimate just got better ? PlayStation 9 ? teleport yours today . "
PlayStation Portable
" PSP Hellz Yeah " (PSP @-@ 1000 Series)
" Dude , Get Your Own ... " (PSP @-@ 2000 Series)
" Everywhere Just Got Better " (PSP @-@ 3000 Series and PSPgo)

" It 's GO Time " (PSPgo)
" Your Whole World In Your Hands " (UK & Europe Territories)
" Step Your Game Up " (US Territory , PSP @-@ 3000 Series and PSPgo)
PlayStation 3
" The Wait Is Over "
" Welcome Chang3 " (the number three is used to denote an ' e ' and was printed in red)
" This is Living . "
" Play B3yond " (the number three is used to denote an ' e ' and was printed in red)
" It Only Does Everything " (US Commercials) (PS3 Slim)
" The Game Is Just The Start . Start PS3 . " (EU countries)
" Long Live Play " (PS3 Slim)
" Never Stop Playing " (PS3 Slim)
" Greatness Awaits " (PS3 SuperSlim)
PlayStation Move
" This Changes Everything " .
" Move Into The Action "
PlayStation Network
" Download , Play , Connect . "
PlayStation Vita
" Never Stop Playing . "
" The World is in Play . " (EU only)
PlayStation 4
" See the Future "
" Push the boundaries of Play "
" Greatness Awaits "
" This is 4 the Players "
" Where the Greatest Play "

= = = Notable advertising campaigns = = =

= = = = It Only Does Everything = = = =

 The most notable of recent PlayStation commercials is the series of " It Only Does Everything " commercials featuring a fictional character called Kevin Butler who is a Vice President at PlayStation . These commercials usually advertise the PlayStation 3 and its games through a series of comedic answers to " Dear PlayStation " queries . These commercials garnered popularity among gamers , though its debut commercial received criticism from the Nigerian government due to a reference to the common 419 scams originating in Nigeria . Sony issued an apology and a new version of the advert with the offending line changed was produced .
 A spin @-@ off of the campaign has been created for the PlayStation Portable which features similar campaign commercials called the " Step Your Game Up " campaign featuring a fictional teenage character named Marcus Rivers acting in a similar fashion to Kevin Butler but answering the " Dear PlayStation " queries about the PSP .

= = = = Netherlands Ceramic White PSP Commercials = = = =

 In July 2006 , an advertising campaign in the Netherlands was released in which a white model dressed entirely in white and a black model dressed entirely in black was used to compare Sony 's new Ceramic White PSP and the original Piano Black PSP . This series of ads depicted both models fighting with each other and drew criticism from the media for being racist , though Sony maintains that the ad did not feature any racist message .

==== All I want for Xmas is a PSP ====

  In November 2006 , a marketing company employed by Sony 's American division created a website entitled " All I want for Xmas is a PSP " , designed to promote the PSP virally . The site contained a blog which was purportedly written by " Charlie " , a teenage boy attempting to get his friend Jeremy 's parents to buy him a PSP , and providing a " music video " of either Charlie or Jeremy " rapping " about the PSP . Visitors to the website quickly recognized that the website was registered to a marketing company , exposing the campaign on sites such as YouTube and digg . Sony was forced to admit that the site was in fact a marketing campaign and in an interview with next @-@ gen.biz , Sony admitted that the idea was " poorly executed " .

== Reception ==

  In 2005 , Australian newspaper The Age wrote an article about the PlayStation brand . Among the numerous interviews conducted with various people in the industry was an interview with Dr Jeffrey Brand , associate professor in communication and media at Bond University who said , " PlayStation re @-@ ignited our imagination with video games " . Game designers Yoshiki Okamoto called the brand " revolutionary ? PlayStation has changed gaming , distribution , sales , image and more " , while Evan Wells of Naughty Dog said " PlayStation is responsible for making playing games cool . "

  In 2009 , ViTrue , Inc. listed the PlayStation brand as number 13 on their " The Vitrue 100 : Top Social Brands of 2009 " . The ranking was based on various aspects mainly dealing with popular social media sites in aspects such as Social Networking , Video Sharing , Photo Sharing and Blogs .

  In 2010 , Gizmodo stated that the PlayStation brand was one of the last Sony products to completely stand apart from its competitors , stating that " If you ask the average person on the street what their favorite Sony product is , more often than not you 'll hear PlayStation " . As of April 2012 , the PlayStation brand is the " most followed " brand on social networking site , Facebook , with over 22 million fans and followers in total which is more than any other brand in the entertainment industry . A study by Greenlight 's Entertainment Retail has also shown that the PlayStation brand is the most interactive making 634 posts and tweets on social networking sites Facebook and Twitter .
  In July 2014 , Sony boasted in a company release video that the PlayStation 3 , PlayStation 4 and PlayStation Vita sold a combined total of 100 million units . It was announced at Tokyo Game Show on September 1 , 2014 , that PlayStation home game consoles claim 78 % market share of all home consoles in Japan .
  As of 2015 , PlayStation is the strongest selling console brand worldwide .