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To produce a short (2-4 page) biography of a key software engineer, discussing the work and impact of the individual.

Early Life

Andrew W. "Drew" Houston is the CEO of Dropbox. He was born on the 4th of March 1983 in Acton, Massachusetts. His father who was an Electrical Engineer graduate from Harvard, bought Drew his first ever computer. From having his own computer he started learning BASIC Programming. While he played games on his computer, he felt more and more intrigued by the way games work. As a result he started doing startups since the age of 14.

In his teenage years in the 1990s, Drew Houston used to be in a band. The band was called Angry Flannel in which they consider themselves as Boston's premier '90's-rock cover band. Drew plays guitar and is also the backup singer.

Education

Drew attended Acton-Boxborough Regional High School. He had perfect SAT scores. After high school, he went on and decided to study a Computer Science degree in Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where he graduated. While he was in college, he had an idea to start an online SAT-prep company. This then became his first company, Accolade. This occurred when he was at the age of 21 and so he took a year off from college and teamed up with a former teacher from his old high school to work on this company. This company is later rejected by Y Combinator. The Y Combinator is a big startup-accelerator program that was cofounded by Paul Graham who is well-known in Silicon Valley. However despite the company being rejected, college wasn't all that bad for Drew as it was in university that he met Arash Ferdowsi who would later play an important role in his life with regards to Dropbox.

Career

After Drew graduated from MIT, he went on and worked for a number of startups such as Bit9 and Hubspot. He then went on and worked for the startup incubator Y Combinator which he was initially rejected by. As a result, Y Combinator eventually launched his company, Dropbox.

Dropbox Discovery

The Dropbox concept was discovered when Drew kept repeatedly forgetting his USB flash drive while travelling from Boston to New York on the Chinatown bus. It became very frustrating for him since it meant that he couldn't get anything done. He then realised that at the time there were many services that suffered a bunch of problems such as internet

latency, large files, bugs etc. What Drew wanted to make for just his personal use, he realised, could be beneficial to others who have the same problem.

Dropbox Begins

Dropbox Inc. was founded in June 2007, just over a little over 10 years ago. Dropbox was launched publicly in September 2008. They released a demo video which is how they got their first couple hundred thousand users. However, how they really got up and running was from their incentive referral program. To explain this, if Mary invites John to Dropbox, Mary would get some free space, John would get some free space. Both members gain from this program. This led to this incentive referral program to spread virally and cause Dropbox to be more and more widely used among people.

The early days of Dropbox was so general purpose in the sense that people didn't understand about file synchronization. However, the most valuable thing that they provided for their customers was the sharing and collaboration and is sincerely where a lot of the value is and where a lot of the revenue comes from.

Dropbox Rises

Dropbox is a file-storage application now worth over \$1 billion in annualized revenue and has more than 500 million users using the application. About 10 million new people start using the free consumer product every month. An increasing percentage of those users sign up for the \$100-a-year Pro version, which offers more storage and sharing features. Many of those Pro customers use Dropbox at work, and once their employers realize how popular it is they are more likely to step up to Dropbox Business, which is designed for use by teams rather than individuals. So far more than 200,000 companies have signed up for Dropbox Business, up from 50,000 in 2014. While most are small and medium-sized companies, a few big companies such as Expedia and News Corp. have more than 10,000 seats.

Drew started Dropbox at the age of 24. Now Dropbox has over 1,000 employees. Drew admires Marc Benioff with the work that he's done with Salesforce likewise with Mark Zuckerberg and Facebook. He enjoys the culture in the Valley. He likes how people are willing to share the lessons that they've learned along the way, how founders trade war stories etc. With all these influentials in his life that he has met along the way such as Steve Jobs, the future of Dropbox is in no danger. Currently at the moment, Dropbox are looking to further expand themselves and upgrade their tools to provide an even better service for all the users out there in the world.

The Impact of Dropbox

First, Dropbox is free, so anyone can have an account. This in particular has a huge impact on education for both students and teachers. This could free up space on a school or school systems server if students were previously saving to their own accounts. If students have

reports to work on, they can access the reports anywhere to work on them and when they are complete, they can share the file with their teacher. By sharing the files through Dropbox, paper and toner could also be saved by eliminating the need to print the work. Not only does this have a major impact on education and school life but it also has a major involvement in workplaces. Drew Houston has changed the world of file storage and has made a huge input into the field of cloud computing.