

# **Biography of an influential Software Engineer**

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# BILL GATES

*"It's fine to celebrate success but it is more important to heed the lessons of failure."*



William Henry Gates III also known as Bill Gates is an Entrepreneur, Investor, Author, Programmer, Philanthropist and Humanitarian. He is one of the co-founder of the world's largest software business Microsoft. After watching a TED TALK, he delivered 'INNOVATING TO ZERO', I was truly amazed by the innovative mindset Gates has as he discussed reducing the carbon dioxide emitted by our energy

systems can improve lives of the poorest 2 billion people on the planet. I was able to correlate this with Gates innovative mindset towards technology which led to the world's largest innovative tech business Microsoft. It was for this reason I was inspired by Bill Gates.

## **Early Life and Education**

Gates was born in 1955 in Seattle Washington. The son of a lawyer and a schoolteacher, Gates attended a public grade school and then the Lakeside School. It was at Lakeside that he first became interested in the relatively new field of computer programming, met his friend and future business partner Paul Allen, and developed his first computer software program at the age of 13.

Although Gates was interested in computers, he enrolled at Harvard University with the intention of becoming a lawyer like his father. By the time he was a sophomore in 1975, however, Gates was more interested in computers and electronics than in his pre-law studies.

## **The Journey of Microsoft**

After seeing an advertisement for a kit to build a home computer, Allen

and Gates called MITS and expressed that Gates had taken a primary computer language called BASIC and adapted it for the machine. It was a success and later established the Microsoft Corporation in 1975. The name was formed from 'microcomputer' and 'software'. Gates dropped out of university and focused on building the new business. The company made a deal with IBM to produce an operating system for IBM's personal computer. The PC-DOS and MC-DOS was made. Paul Allen left the company in 1982. The following year Gates faced a major challenge when VisiCorp a company made a mouse driven computer system with a user interface rather than a keyboard-based system of MS-DOS.

Gates announced that Microsoft would be producing a new graphical user interface (GUI) called windows. This was a huge success as Windows allowed users to avoid buying new software applications to replace the DOS-compatible programs they currently owned. The release of Windows 3 was a tremendous success selling around 10 million copies in the first two years. By continuing to ensure most computers came with Microsoft software pre-installed, The Microsoft corporation eventually became the largest software company in the world.

### **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

Gates served as the CEO of the Microsoft until 2000. On February 4, 2014, He stepped down as chairman of Microsoft to become Technology Advisor and decided to focus on Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Their charity work involves tackling the global problems that are ignored by governments and other organizations.

### **Awards and Achievements Worth Mentioning**

- He became one of the richest man on the planet at the age of 39.
- He was awarded the presidential medal of freedom which is a highest civilian award in united states.
- Time magazine named Gates one of the 100 people who most influenced the 20th century.
- In 2017, President François Hollande awarded Bill and Melinda with France's highest national award – Legion of Honour in Paris for their charity efforts.

- In 2016, President Barack Obama honoured Gates and his wife Melinda with the Presidential Medal of Freedom which is the highest civilian award of United States.

### **Things I found Interesting**

- He is one of the pioneers who foresaw the PC revolution.
- I really liked how Gates created his own model of how to do business which made Microsoft successful.
- His innovative mindset and hardworking nature. It's hard to believe that he used to work for 16-hours and took only 2-3-day vacations in the first five years after establishing the Microsoft corporation.
- Bill and Melinda's charitable organisation uses technologies and productive farming techniques to improve health in Third world countries. I found this really amazing as the organisation supports using Genetically modified organisms to make rice variant that contains Vitamin A.

### **Quotes I found inspirational**

*"Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces smart people into thinking they can't lose."*

*"We're changing the world with technology."*

*"The computer was born to solve problems that did not exist before."*

*"I am not in competition with anyone but myself. My goal is to improve myself continuously."*

### **Conclusion**

Bill gates made a huge impact in software industry. Among one of the things that is still recognised widely around the world would be the revolutionary invention of Windows and it's still one of the most popular operating system's. I found it fascinating that through his innovative mindset he changed the tech industry.

*"I believe innovation is the most powerful force for change in the world."-Bill Gates*

## **References**

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