

John McAfee is an extremely interesting Character, perhaps most well known for the antivirus software that shares his namesake, or possibly for the many mysteries surrounding his later years. Widely regarded as a genius, or even mad scientist of sorts, there is an awful lot more to this man than just the entire software industry he essentially conceived single handedly in the late 80s.

Born on a United States army base in Gloucestershire on September 18th of 1945, mere weeks after the surrender of Japan, he grew up in the post war society of America. Born to an English mother and an American father, raised in the historic area of Salem, Virginia (yes, the same place famous for burning witches). He didn't have an easy upbringing, his father (who worked as a road surveyor) was an abusive alcoholic to both him and his mother. When McAfee was only 15, his father took his own life by gunshot.

In the early '60s, before McAfee even attended college he had already become a successful entrepreneur, his first business being selling magazines door to door, which McAfee is quoted saying 'earned him a small fortune'. He abandoned this venture however before attending Roanoke College in 1963, where, unfortunately like his father before him he became somewhat of a heavy drinker, despite this fact he graduated with a first class honours in mathematics in the summer of '67, immediately being hired by NASA upon graduation. While at NASA he worked closely with the team that would eventually send the Apollo 11 team to the moon, even from his formative years it was obvious McAfee was destined for greatness, regardless of his flaws.

He left NASA shortly after the landing in 1970, after he was offered a senior management job at Univax, he didn't stick around at Univax for long however, leaving in 1971 after being scouted by Xerox to lead a team of OS engineers to finalise the ALTO. Essentially the very first home computer with a graphical user interface, he stayed with Xerox until 1980, becoming an extremely widely regarded professional in the industry. All this time he was becoming increasingly consumed by drugs and alcohol, recounting his days in the early '80s to be composed of drinking an entire bottle of scotch and snorting cocaine at his desk, he finally decided to seek help in 1983. He then left Xerox to work with Lockheed Martin for the next 7 years, during which time he found himself in possession of a copy of what has become known as the 'brain' virus, this virus in particular was extremely interesting to McAfee as unlike others at the time it often went undetected by design. He began to study this virus and envisioned ways to combat such viruses in the present and future, and thus, McAfee Associates was born.

Once McAfee started the company it did nothing but soar, by the end of the '80s the company was raking in over \$5 million dollars a year (15 million in today's money), however that was only the beginning. In 1992 a new computer virus known as Michaelangelo became world news overnight, with McAfee estimating that over 5 million computers were at serious risk of infection (a sizable percentage of the world's PC's at the time). This anxiety around this new virus caused widespread panic and subsequently a large influx of people buying antivirus software. This caused McAfee Associates profits to skyrocket and the company to incorporate in the same year, propelling McAfee to the very top of the burgeoning tech world. McAfee would stay as the predominant shareholder in the company for the following 2 years before selling off his entire stake in the company in 1994, these shares were estimated to be worth over \$100 million dollars, making McAfee a very rich man indeed.

He laid low for the vast majority of the next 13 years, rarely making the news and staying in the shadows of the tech world. He became peripherally involved with many startups, offering advice and generally trying to help young businesses grow. He would

also go on to lecture at the Stanford Graduate School of Business for a stint, giving his expertise in the field to some of the brightest young entrepreneurial minds in America at the time. During this time he also was responsible for the very first instant messaging windows chat program, it was known as pow wow, and, even though it was absolutely ingenious, it may have been too far ahead of its time for it to catch on in the mainstream, it supported URL and instant file sharing, instant WAV file music playing, it supported a speech synthesizer as well. It is reported to be the first program to support the 'drag and drop' file sharing system we all still use today to attach files to our emails etc.

Unfortunately for McAfee, this quiet life of innovation would soon come to an end, when, in 2008 the stock market crash occurred, and reportedly his fortune of over \$100 million dollars had dwindled to only around \$4 million, although McAfee himself has stated that this was a rumour that he intentionally spread in a vow to make him less of a target. In a very sudden turn of events, and a very sudden turn away from the tech world, McAfee decided to sell all of his land and move to Belize, where he believed himself and microbiologist Dr. Allison Adonizio could create groundbreaking medicine from plants, founding a company known as quorumEx in 2010. It was also around this time that some would say McAfee became more infamous than famous following a slew of accusations and strange occurrences that unfolded shortly after the company's inception in 2010 .

McAfee started the company without even having a lab or lab equipment to develop these pharmaceuticals, so shortly after he realised that his san pedro property could not properly support this venture he decided he would buy a 22 acre plot of land in orange walk, an area immediately outside the village of Carmelita. The locals of Carmelita at this time adored McAfee, as he would employ them to build and clear the property, paying double what other employers in the area were willing to. He is recorded to have also payed for many of the villagers electricity and water, while some of them who had unfinished homes, McAfee would pay for the completion of their property. Shortly after the completion of his home however he would take a sudden turn and start to employ many security guards, 13 in total, the most dangerous of which was known as Tino Allen, who had been to prison 22 times.

He became increasingly paranoid that people were going to try and kill or rob him, although his paranoia may be justified as he had over 11 attempts on his life in 2010 alone. During this time Dr. Allison Adonizio left very suddenly and under very mysterious circumstances, under the impression that McAfee was dangerous and unhinged. Before she left she destroyed or stole all of the samples pertaining to her research into quorum sampling. This was the unfortunate end of the company McAfee was so hopeful about.

Shortly after the untimely departure of Dr Adonizio there was a robbery at McAfee's orange walk residence by a man called David Middleton who reportedly stole over \$100'000 dollars from one of the houses on his property. Now, with a point to prove, stating that belize is a "Murder Capital", he set out to 'clean up the streets' of Carmelita Village. According to some he started this war on crime by making an example of the man who had robbed him, they would say that he hired 3 men from a major gang in belize city to go to David Middletons house and, after middleton started running into the forest, he was caught and tortured by these men, before being dumped out of a pickup truck very similar to the ones that McAfee's 'private army' were using at the time. McAfee of course denies that any of this ever actually happened and to this day there is no concrete evidence that McAfee was responsible for the man's hospitalization and ultimately death.

While McAfee was 'cleaning up the streets of Carmelita' he had an officer living with him in his orange walk property in one of the private houses he had built there.

According to McAfee this was so that he was better able to know the gang situation in the village and surrounding areas, therefore he was better able to combat it. When asked why he didn't go to the police he stated that he had resources that the police could never have, and that the guards were on his side in his bid to rid the village of crime. He imposed an 8pm curfew in the town and his men would routinely patrol the streets at night to search for anyone breaking the curfew.

At 5:30am on April 30th of 2012 McAfee was raided by the GSU (gang suppression unit). 42 armed soldiers in total arrived at the gates to McAfee's residence before handcuffing and bringing him to a police station in the Belizian capital. The gang suppression unit is specially brought in when there is suspicion that large quantities of illegal drugs are being produced. They found absolutely no trace of any illegal drugs that were being produced by McAfee on the property, and instead attempted to keep him behind bars with trumped up firearm possession violations. The United States embassy was contacted and negotiated his release 14 hours later. McAfee has said this was a bid by a politician who came to his house less than a week before requesting a \$2 million dollar donation to his party, which McAfee less than politely refused to give him. It was after this incident McAfee left his home in Orange walk and returned to San Pedro.

During these years of McAfee's life he always had about 5 girlfriends simultaneously, most of them in their late teens or early 20s, they would all live with him in the compound in orange walk. They would come and go but they all said that Mr. McAfee was extremely good and loving towards every single one of them. He would pay for their education and bring them all on trips to different areas of Belize, not one of them has said a bad word about McAfee. Many would find this behaviour extremely strange and even unsettling but McAfee has said in interviews "I know I live beyond the realm of normality for many people, I enjoy it, and I'm doing nothing illegal, if you have a problem with it, that's fine, I understand".

Once he returned to San Pedro with a few of his armed personnel and his girlfriends in tow the locals who once liked McAfee began to harbour a distaste for his newly paranoid demeanour. McAfee had guard dogs at the front of his beach house residence, that his neighbour, one Greg Faull had a serious issue with. He filed a report with the police of San Pedro who responded to him saying that McAfee was doing absolutely nothing illegal and that his complaint was invalid. It was then that Mr. Faull decided to take matters into his own hands, telling numerous people in the small coastal town that he was going to poison McAfee's dogs. Shortly after he said that, multiple of the guard dogs were poisoned one night. The next night Greg Faull was shot in the back of the head in his home, the police referred to his murder as 'in the style of an execution'. Evidence suggests he was shot while kneeling down on the floor, there were no signs of robbery.

One of Johns housekeepers, Cassian came to his house the next morning and told him that there were police down the street, to which he replied

"Doing what?"

"Greg Faull was killed last night"

"You kidding Cassian!"

Cassian went into town after that encounter and when he returned McAfee was nowhere to be found, he went on the run immediately. He insists this was due to his fear of the police not following proper procedure and not because he was guilty of any crime. He left Belize and fled to Guatemala where he allowed the news company VICE to follow his flee. Unfortunately for McAfee VICE uploaded a picture that still had GPS coordinates

attached to it and as such, the Guatemalan police arrested him shortly after the article was posted. While in Guatemalan custody he suffered a number of heart related issues and was ultimately released to the United states in early 2013. McAfee has never been charged or convicted of any crime in relation to the murder of Gregory Faull, and he himself states that the entire fiasco was a ploy by the Belizian government to have him killed.

Upon entering the United States he decided that the best course of action was to remain away from the limelight for some time. Until, unexpectedly in 2015 he announced he would be making a bid for the presidency under the libertarian party. Even though he sought the nomination and garnered some support he ultimately lost the race for the libertarian nomination. He again attempted to run for the presidency in 2020 but unsurprisingly he also lost his bid for this nomination too. A great many of his proposed policies were cyber security related, which is par for the course for McAfee. In 2016, after the San Bernardino massacre, while he was running for president, wrote an article for business insider where he stated "here is my offer to the FBI. I will, free of charge, decrypt the information on the San Bernardino phone, with my team. We will primarily use social engineering, and it will take us three weeks. If you accept my offer, then you will not need to ask Apple to place a back door in its product, which will be the beginning of the end of America."

Between his bids for presidency the eccentric millionaire bounced around the tech and cybersecurity worlds, with a stint as CEO in both MGT and Luxcore. The latest we have heard from the illusive Mr. McAfee is arrested in Spain at the request of the United States for tax evasion. He stated that he hasn't paid taxes in over 10 years and that they are illegal and go against his fundamental human rights...

John McAfee is many things, a multi Millionaire, genius innovator, holder of an Honorary Sc.D from Roanoke college. He is also supposedly many other things, a murderer, a money launderer and an utter Madman. The life of John McAfee is one of great intrigue and mystery, and one that not many other people on earth could have lived through to tell the tale.

Post scriptum: There are many aspects of McAfee's life I have had to completely omit for the sake of brevity, I believe I did the best I could to capture the essence of the man in this pandect.