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**International Business Machines Corporation** (commonly referred to as **IBM**) is an [American](/wiki/United_States) [multinational](/wiki/Multinational_corporation) [technology](/wiki/Technology) and [consulting](/wiki/Consultant) corporation, with corporate headquarters in [Armonk](/wiki/Armonk,_New_York), New York. IBM manufactures and markets computer [hardware](/wiki/Personal_computer_hardware), [middleware](/wiki/Middleware) and [software](/wiki/Computer_software) and offers [infrastructure](/wiki/Infrastructure), [hosting](/wiki/Internet_hosting_service) and [consulting services](/wiki/Consultant) in areas ranging from [mainframe computers](/wiki/Mainframe_computer) to [nanotechnology](/wiki/Nanotechnology).[[1]](#cite_note-1) The company originated in 1911 as the [Computing-Tabulating-Recording Company](/wiki/Computing-Tabulating-Recording_Company) (CTR) through the [consolidation](/wiki/Holding_company) of [The Tabulating Machine Company](/wiki/Tabulating_Machine_Company), the [International Time Recording Company](/wiki/International_Time_Recording_Company), the Computing Scale Company and the [Bundy Manufacturing Company](/wiki/Bundy_Manufacturing_Company).[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3) CTR was renamed "International Business Machines" in 1924, a name which [Thomas J. Watson](/wiki/Thomas_J._Watson) first used for a CTR Canadian subsidiary.[[4]](#cite_note-4) The initialism "IBM" followed. In 1949, Watson created IBM World Trade Corporation, a subsidiary of IBM focused on foreign operations.[[5]](#cite_note-5) Securities analysts nicknamed the company **Big Blue** for its size and common use of the color in products, packaging and its logo.[[6]](#cite_note-6) In 2012, [*Fortune*](/wiki/Fortune_(magazine)) ranked IBM the second largest U.S. firm in terms of number of employees (435,000 worldwide),[[7]](#cite_note-7) the fourth largest in terms of [market capitalization](/wiki/Market_capitalization),[[8]](#cite_note-8) the ninth most profitable,[[9]](#cite_note-9) and the nineteenth largest firm in terms of revenue.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Globally, the company was ranked the 31st largest in terms of revenue by [*Forbes*](/wiki/Forbes) for 2011.[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[12]](#cite_note-12) Other rankings for 2011/2012 include №1 company for leaders (*Fortune*), №1 [green company](/wiki/Green_company) in the United States ([*Newsweek*](/wiki/Newsweek)), №2 best global brand ([*Interbrand*](/wiki/Interbrand)), №2 most respected company ([*Barron's*](/wiki/Barron's_(newspaper))), №5 most admired company (*Fortune*), and №18 most innovative company ([*Fast Company*](/wiki/Fast_Company_(magazine))).[[13]](#cite_note-13) IBM has 12 research laboratories worldwide, bundled into [IBM Research](/wiki/IBM_Research). [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) the company held the record for most [patents](/wiki/Patents) generated by a business for 22 consecutive years.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Its employees have garnered five [Nobel Prizes](/wiki/Nobel_Prize), six [Turing Awards](/wiki/Turing_Award), ten [National Medals of Technology](/wiki/National_Medal_of_Technology) and five [National Medals of Science](/wiki/National_Medal_of_Science).[[15]](#cite_note-15) Notable company inventions or developments include the [automated teller machine (ATM)](/wiki/Automated_teller_machine), the [floppy disk](/wiki/Floppy_disk), the [hard disk drive](/wiki/Hard_disk_drive), the [magnetic stripe card](/wiki/Magnetic_stripe_card), the [relational database](/wiki/Relational_model), the [Universal Product Code (UPC)](/wiki/Universal_Product_Code), the [financial swap](/wiki/Swap_(finance)), the [Fortran](/wiki/Fortran) programming language, [SABRE airline reservation system](/wiki/Sabre_(computer_system)), [dynamic random-access memory](/wiki/Dynamic_random-access_memory) (DRAM), copper wiring in [semiconductors](/wiki/Semiconductor), the [silicon-on-insulator (SOI)](/wiki/Silicon-on-insulator) semiconductor manufacturing process and [Watson artificial intelligence](/wiki/Watson_(computer)).

IBM has constantly evolved since its inception. Over the past decade, it has steadily shifted its business mix by exiting [commoditizing](/wiki/Commoditization) markets such as [PCs](/wiki/Personal_computer), hard disk drives and DRAMs and focusing on higher-value, more profitable markets such as [business intelligence](/wiki/Business_intelligence), [data analytics](/wiki/Data_analysis), [business continuity](/wiki/Business_continuity), security, [cloud computing](/wiki/Cloud_computing), [virtualization](/wiki/Virtualization) and green solutions,[[16]](#cite_note-16) CTR's business office was in Endicott.[[23]](#cite_note-23) The individual companies owned by CTR continued to operate using their established names until the businesses were integrated in 1933 and the holding company eliminated.[[24]](#cite_note-24)[[25]](#cite_note-25) The four companies had 1,300 employees and offices and plants in [Endicott](/wiki/Endicott,_New_York) and [Binghamton](/wiki/Binghamton,_New_York), New York; [Dayton, Ohio](/wiki/Dayton,_Ohio); [Detroit, Michigan](/wiki/Detroit,_Michigan); [Washington, D.C.](/wiki/Washington,_D.C.); and [Toronto](/wiki/Toronto). They manufactured machinery for sale and lease, ranging from commercial scales and industrial time recorders, meat and cheese slicers, to tabulators and punched cards.

[Thomas J. Watson, Sr.](/wiki/Thomas_J._Watson,_Sr.), fired from the [National Cash Register Company](/wiki/National_Cash_Register_Company) by [John Henry Patterson](/wiki/John_Henry_Patterson_(NCR_owner)), called on Flint and, in 1914, was offered CTR.[[26]](#cite_note-26) Watson joined CTR as *General Manager* then, 11 months later, was made *President* when court cases relating to his time at NCR were resolved.[[27]](#cite_note-27) Having learned Patterson's [pioneering business practices](/wiki/John_Henry_Patterson_(NCR_owner)#Pioneering_business_practices), Watson proceeded to put the stamp of NCR onto CTR's companies.[[28]](#cite_note-28) He implemented sales conventions, "generous sales incentives, a focus on customer service, an insistence on well-groomed, dark-suited salesmen and had an evangelical fervor for instilling company pride and loyalty in every worker".[[29]](#cite_note-29)[[30]](#cite_note-30) His favorite slogan, "[THINK](/wiki/Think_(IBM))", became a mantra for each company's employees.[[29]](#cite_note-29) During Watson's first four years, revenues more than doubled to $9 million and the company's operations expanded to Europe, South America, Asia and Australia.[[29]](#cite_note-29) "Watson had never liked the clumsy hyphenated title of the CTR" and chose to replace it with the more expansive title "International Business Machines".[[4]](#cite_note-4) First as a name for a 1917 Canadian subsidiary, then as a line in advertisements. For example, the McClures magazine, v53, May 1921, has a full page ad with, at the bottom:

**International Time Recording Company of New York**

Subsidiary of

Computing-Tabulating-Recording Company, New York

Makers of

**International Business Machines**

Finally, February 14, 1924, for CTR itself.

### 1930–1979[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[thumb|left|250px|](/wiki/File:IBM_Electronic_Data_Processing_Machine_-_GPN-2000-001881.jpg)[NACA](/wiki/NACA) researchers using an IBM type 704 electronic data processing machine in 1957 In 1937, IBM's tabulating equipment enabled organizations to process unprecedented amounts of data, its clients including the [U.S. Government](/wiki/U.S._Government), during its first effort to maintain the employment records for 26 million people pursuant to the [Social Security Act](/wiki/Social_Security_Act),[[31]](#cite_note-31) and the [Third Reich](/wiki/Third_Reich),[[32]](#cite_note-32) largely through the German subsidiary [Dehomag](/wiki/Dehomag). During the [Second World War](/wiki/Second_World_War) the company produced small arms for the American war effort ([M1 Carbine](/wiki/M1_Carbine), and [Browning Automatic Rifle](/wiki/Browning_Automatic_Rifle)). IBM provided translation services for the [Nuremberg Trials](/wiki/Nuremberg_Trials). In 1947, IBM opened its first office in Bahrain,[[33]](#cite_note-33) as well as an office in [Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_Arabia) to service the needs of the [Arabian-American Oil Company](/wiki/ARAMCO) that would grow to become Saudi Business Machines (SBM).[[34]](#cite_note-34) IBM Israel, registered on June 8, 1950, was the country's first high-tech firm. The company, located on Allenby Street in Tel Aviv, assembled and repaired punch card machines, sorting machines and tabulators. In 1956, a local plant was opened to produce punch cards, and a year later, the first service center opened, offering computerized data processing services.

In 1952, Thomas Watson, Sr., stepped down after almost 40 years at the company helm; his son, [Thomas Watson, Jr.](/wiki/Thomas_Watson,_Jr.), was named president. In 1956, the company demonstrated the first practical example of [artificial intelligence](/wiki/Artificial_intelligence) when Arthur L. Samuel of IBM's Poughkeepsie, New York, laboratory programmed an [IBM 704](/wiki/IBM_704) not merely to play checkers but "learn" from its own experience. In 1957, the [FORTRAN](/wiki/FORTRAN) (FORmula TRANslation) scientific programming language was developed. In 1961, Thomas J. Watson, Jr., was elected chairman of the board and [Albert L. Williams](/wiki/Albert_L._Williams) became company president. The same year IBM developed the SABRE (Semi-Automatic Business-Related Environment) reservation system for American Airlines and introduced the highly successful [Selectric](/wiki/IBM_Selectric_typewriter) typewriter.

In 1963, IBM employees and computers helped NASA track the orbital flight of the Mercury astronauts. A year later it moved its corporate headquarters from New York City to [Armonk, New York](/wiki/Armonk,_New_York). The latter half of the 1960s saw IBM continue its support of space exploration, participating in the 1965 Gemini flights, 1966 Saturn flights and 1969 lunar mission.

On April 7, 1964, IBM announced the first computer system family, the revolutionary [IBM System/360](/wiki/IBM_System/360). Sold between 1964 and 1978, it spanned the complete range of commercial and scientific applications from large to small, allowing companies for the first time to upgrade to models with greater computing capability without having to rewrite their application.

In 1974, IBM engineer [George J. Laurer](/wiki/George_J._Laurer) developed the [Universal Product Code](/wiki/Universal_Product_Code).[[35]](#cite_note-35) On October 11, 1973, IBM introduced the IBM 3666, a laser-scanning point-of-sale barcode reader which would become the backbone of retail checkouts. On June 26, 1974, at Marsh's supermarket in Troy, Ohio, a pack of [Wrigley's](/wiki/Wrigley_Company) [Juicy Fruit chewing gum](/wiki/Juicy_Fruit) was the first-ever product scanned. It is now on display at the [Smithsonian Institution’s](/wiki/Smithsonian_Institution) [National Museum of American History](/wiki/Smithsonian_National_Museum_of_American_History) in [Washington, D.C.](/wiki/Washington,_D.C.)

In the late 1970s, IBM underwent a wave of internal convulsions between a management faction wanting to concentrate on its bread-and-butter mainframe business and one desiring to expand into the emerging personal computer industry.

### 1980–present[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[thumb|right|250px|IBM's](/wiki/File:IBM_Blue_Gene_P_supercomputer.jpg) [Blue Gene](/wiki/Blue_Gene) supercomputers were awarded the [National Medal of Technology and Innovation](/wiki/National_Medal_of_Technology_and_Innovation) by [U.S. President](/wiki/President_of_the_United_States) [Barack Obama](/wiki/Barack_Obama) on September 18, 2009

IBM and the [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank) first introduced [financial swaps](/wiki/Swap_(finance)) to the public in 1981 when they entered into a swap agreement.[[36]](#cite_note-36) The [IBM PC](/wiki/IBM_PC), originally designated IBM 5150, was introduced in 1981, and it soon became an industry standard. In 1991, IBM sold printer manufacturer [Lexmark](/wiki/Lexmark). In 1993, IBM posted a US$8 billion loss - at the time the biggest in American corporate history.[[37]](#cite_note-37) In 2002, IBM acquired [PwC](/wiki/PwC) consulting. In 2003 it initiated a project to redefine company values. Using its *Jam* technology, it hosted a three-day Internet-based online discussion of key [business](/wiki/Business) issues with 50,000 employees. Results were data mined with sophisticated text analysis software (eClassifier) for common themes. Three emerged, expressed as: "Dedication to every client's success", "Innovation that matters—for our company and for the world", and "Trust and personal responsibility in all relationships".[[38]](#cite_note-38) Another three-day Jam took place in 2004, with 52,000 employees discussing ways to implement company values [in practice](/wiki/Best_practice).[[39]](#cite_note-39) [left|thumb|IBM showing their various innovations at](/wiki/File:IBM_CeBIT_2010.jpg) [CeBIT](/wiki/CeBIT) 2010 in Hanover, Germany In 2005, the company sold its personal computer business to Chinese technology company [Lenovo](/wiki/Lenovo), and in the same year it agreed to acquire [Micromuse](/wiki/Micromuse).[[40]](#cite_note-40) A year later IBM launched [Secure Blue](/wiki/IBM_Secure_Blue), a low-cost hardware design for data encryption that can be built into a microprocessor.[[41]](#cite_note-41) In 2009 it acquired software company [SPSS Inc.](/wiki/SPSS_Inc.) Later in 2009, IBM's [Blue Gene](/wiki/Blue_Gene) supercomputing program was awarded the [National Medal of Technology and Innovation](/wiki/National_Medal_of_Technology_and_Innovation) by [U.S. President](/wiki/President_of_the_United_States) [Barack Obama](/wiki/Barack_Obama). In 2011, IBM gained worldwide attention for its [artificial intelligence](/wiki/Artificial_intelligence) program [Watson](/wiki/Watson_(artificial_intelligence_software)), which was exhibited on [*Jeopardy!*](/wiki/Jeopardy!) where it won against game-show champions [Ken Jennings](/wiki/Ken_Jennings) and [Brad Rutter](/wiki/Brad_Rutter). [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), IBM had been the top annual recipient of U.S. patents for 20 consecutive years.[[42]](#cite_note-42) IBM's closing value of $214 billion on September 29, 2011 surpassed [Microsoft's](/wiki/Microsoft) $213.2 billion valuation. It was the first time since 1996 that IBM's closing price exceeded that of its software rival. On August 16, 2012, IBM announced that it had entered an agreement to buy [Texas Memory Systems](/wiki/Texas_Memory_Systems).[[43]](#cite_note-43) Later that month, IBM announced it has agreed to buy [Kenexa](/wiki/Kenexa).

In June 2013 IBM acquired [SoftLayer Technologies](/wiki/SoftLayer_Technologies), a [web hosting service](/wiki/Web_hosting_service), in a deal worth around $2 billion;[[44]](#cite_note-44) and in July 2014 the company announced a partnership with [Apple Inc.](/wiki/Apple_Inc.) in [mobile enterprise](/wiki/Mobile_enterprise).[[45]](#cite_note-45)[[46]](#cite_note-46) On August 11, 2014, IBM announced it had acquired the business operations of Lighthouse Security Group, LLC, a premier cloud-security services provider. Financial terms were not disclosed.[[47]](#cite_note-47) In September 2014 it was announced that IBM would sell its x86 server division to Lenovo for a fee of $2.1 billion.[[48]](#cite_note-48) That same year, [Reuters](/wiki/Reuters) referred to IBM as "largely a computer services supplier".[[49]](#cite_note-49) In November 2014, IBM and [Twitter](/wiki/Twitter) announced a global landmark partnership which they claim will change how institutions and businesses understand their customers, markets and trends. With Twitter's data on people and IBM's cloud-based analytics and customer-engagement platforms they plan to help enterprises make better, more informed decisions. The partnership will give enterprises and institutions a way to make sense of Twitter's mountain of data using IBM's Watson supercomputer.[[50]](#cite_note-50) On April 3, 2015, IBM made the first molecule movie to tell a story. The movie is called [*A Boy and His Atom*](/wiki/A_Boy_and_His_Atom).

In August 2015 IBM agreed to purchase Merge Healthcare for $1 billion, incorporating Merge's imaging management platform with its Watson data analytics tool.[[51]](#cite_note-51) The following month, IBM acquired [Strongloop](/wiki/Strongloop), an API developer, in order to position itself for the coming "[internet of things](/wiki/Internet_of_things)".

On October 28, 2015, IBM announced its acquisition of digital assets from The Weather Company—a holding company of [Bain Capital](/wiki/Bain_Capital), [The Blackstone Group](/wiki/The_Blackstone_Group) and [NBCUniversal](/wiki/NBCUniversal) which owns [The Weather Channel](/wiki/The_Weather_Channel), including its weather data platforms (such as Weather Services International), websites (Weather.com and [Weather Underground](/wiki/Weather_Underground_(weather_service))) and [mobile apps](/wiki/Mobile_app). The acquisition seeks to use Watson for weather analytics and predictions. The acquisition does not include The Weather Channel itself, which will enter into a long-term licensing agreement with IBM for use of its data.<ref name=bloomberg-twcibm>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref><ref name=nyt-ibmtwc>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> The sale closed on January 29, 2016 [[52]](#cite_note-52) On January 21, 2016, IBM acquired [Ustream](/wiki/Ustream), a video conferencing service, to form a new cloud video unit.[[53]](#cite_note-53)[[54]](#cite_note-54)