[Template:Infobox dot-com company](/wiki/Template:Infobox_dot-com_company" \o "Template:Infobox dot-com company)

**Lycos, Inc.** is a [search engine](/wiki/Web_search_engine) and [web portal](/wiki/Web_portal) established in 1994, spun out of [Carnegie Mellon University](/wiki/Carnegie_Mellon_University). Lycos also encompasses a network of email, webhosting, social networking, and entertainment websites.

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## Corporate history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

Lycos is a [university spin-off](/wiki/University_spin-off) that began as a research project by [Michael Loren Mauldin](/wiki/Michael_Loren_Mauldin) of [Carnegie Mellon University's](/wiki/Carnegie_Mellon_University) main [Pittsburgh](/wiki/Pittsburgh) campus in 1994. **Lycos Inc.** was formed with approximately US $2 million ($[BROKEN](/wiki/BROKEN) million today) in [venture capital](/wiki/Venture_capital) funding from [CMGI](/wiki/CMGI). [Bob Davis](/wiki/Bob_Davis_(businessman)) became the CEO and first employee of the new company in 1995, and concentrated on building the company into an advertising-supported [web portal](/wiki/Web_portal). Lycos enjoyed several years of growth during the 1990s and became the most visited online destination in the world in 1999, with a global presence in more than 40 countries.[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) In 1996, the company completed the fastest [IPO](/wiki/Initial_Public_Offering) from inception to offering in [NASDAQ](/wiki/NASDAQ) history. In 1997, it became one of the first profitable internet businesses in the world. In 1998, Lycos paid $58 million ($[BROKEN](/wiki/BROKEN) million today) for [Tripod](/wiki/Tripod.com) in an attempt to "break into the portal market."[[3]](#cite_note-3) Over the course of the next few years, Lycos acquired nearly two dozen internet brands including [Gamesville](/wiki/Gamesville), WhoWhere, [Wired Digital](/wiki/Wired_News) (eventually sold to [Wired](/wiki/Wired_(magazine))), Quote.com, [Angelfire](/wiki/Angelfire), [Matchmaker.com](/wiki/Matchmaker.com) and Raging Bull.

[Lycos Europe](/wiki/Lycos_Europe) was a joint venture between Lycos and the [Bertelsmann](/wiki/Bertelsmann) transnational media corporation, but it has always been a distinct corporate entity. Although Lycos Europe remains the largest of Lycos's overseas ventures, several other companies also entered into joint venture agreements including [Lycos Canada](/wiki/Lycos_Canada), [Lycos Korea](/wiki/Lycos_Korea) and [Lycos Asia](/wiki/Lycos_Asia).[[4]](#cite_note-4) Near the peak of the [internet bubble](/wiki/Internet_bubble) on May 16, 2000, Lycos announced its intent to be acquired by [Terra Networks](/wiki/Terra_Networks), the internet arm of the Spanish telecommunications giant [Telefónica](/wiki/Telefónica), for $12.5 billion ($[BROKEN](/wiki/BROKEN) billion today).[[5]](#cite_note-5) The acquisition price represented a return of nearly 3000 times the company's initial venture capital investment and about 20 times its initial public offering valuation. The transaction closed in October 2000 and the merged company was renamed Terra Lycos, although the Lycos brand continued to be used in the United States. Overseas, the company continued to be known as Terra Networks.

On August 2, 2004, Terra announced that it was selling Lycos to [Seoul](/wiki/Seoul), [South Korea](/wiki/South_Korea)-based [Daum Communications Corporation](/wiki/Daum_Communications_Corporation) for $95.4 million in cash ($[BROKEN](/wiki/BROKEN) million today), less than 2% of Terra's initial multibillion-dollar investment. In October 2004, the transaction closed for sale of half of the business and the company name was changed back to Lycos Inc. The remaining Terra half was reacquired by Telefónica.

Under new ownership, Lycos began to refocus its strategy. In 2005, the company moved away from a search-centric portal and toward a community destination for broadband entertainment content. With a new management team in place, Lycos also began divesting properties that were not core to its new strategy. In July 2006, [Wired News](/wiki/Wired_News), which had been part of Lycos since the purchase of Wired Digital in 1998, was sold to [Condé Nast Publications](/wiki/Condé_Nast_Publications) and re-merged with [*Wired Magazine*](/wiki/Wired_(magazine)). The Lycos Finance division, best known for [Quote.com](/wiki/Quote.com) and [RagingBull.com](/wiki/RagingBull.com), was sold to FT Interactive Data Corporation in February 2006, while its online dating site, [Matchmaker.com](/wiki/Matchmaker.com), was sold to Date.com. In 2006, Lycos regained ownership of the Lycos trademark from Carnegie Mellon University.

During 2006, Lycos introduced several media services, including [Lycos Phone](/wiki/Lycos_Phone) which combined video chat, real-time video on demand, and an MP3 player. In August of the same year, a new version of Lycos Mail was released, which allowed sending and receiving large files, including unlimited file attachment sizes. In November 2006, Lycos began to roll out applications centered on social media, including the first[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) "watch and chat" video application with the launch of its Lycos Cinema platform. In February 2007, Lycos MIX was launched, allowing users to pull video clips from [YouTube](/wiki/YouTube), [Google Video](/wiki/Google_Video), [Yahoo! Video](/wiki/Yahoo!_Video) and [MySpace Video](/wiki/MySpace_Video). Lycos MIX also allowed users to create playlists where other users could add video comments and chat in real-time.

As part of a corporate restructuring to focus on mobile, social networks and [location-based services](/wiki/Location-based_service), Daum sold Lycos for $36 million in August 2010 to [Ybrant Digital](/wiki/Ybrant_Digital_Limited), an internet marketing company based in [Hyderabad, India](/wiki/Hyderabad,_India).[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[7]](#cite_note-7)[[8]](#cite_note-8) In May 2012 Lycos announced the appointment of former employee Rob Balazy as CEO.[[9]](#cite_note-9)

## Lycos Network sites[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

* [Angelfire](/wiki/Angelfire), a Lycos property providing free web hosting, blogging and web publishing tools
* [Gamesville](/wiki/Gamesville), Lycos's massive multi-player gaming site
* [Hotbot](/wiki/Hotbot), a Lycos-owned search engine
* [Tripod.com](/wiki/Tripod.com), a Lycos property providing free web hosting, blogging and web publishing tools
* [WhoWhere.com](/wiki/WhoWhere.com), a people search engine
* [InsiderInfo](/wiki/InsiderInfo)
* [Weather Zombie](/wiki/Weather_Zombie), a Lycos property providing weather forecasts, with a zombie theme, via [AccuWeather](/wiki/AccuWeather).

### Lycos-branded sites[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

* Lycos Domains, Internet [domain name](/wiki/Domain_name) purchasing
* Lycos Mail, an e-mail provider formerly known as Mailcity.com.
* [Lycos Chat](http://chat.lycos.co.uk), a photo chatting community.
* Lycos Weather
* Lycos Yellow Pages

### Former Lycos sites[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

* [GetRelevant.com](http://www.GetRelevant.com), a Lycos online advertising site
* [Quote.com](/wiki/Quote.com) and Raging Bull, finance sites
* [Matchmaker.com](/wiki/Matchmaker.com), a dating site
* [Webmonkey](/wiki/Webmonkey), web-building help and tutorials
* [Wired.com](/wiki/Wired.com), the online arm of *Wired* magazine
* [Lycos Radio](/wiki/Lycos_Radio), allowed users to create and host their own free internet radio shows

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

* [Lycos Search Home](http://www.lycos.com/)
* [Lycos Chat](http://chat.lycos.co.uk/)
* [Ybrant Digital – Lycos' parent company](http://www.ybrantdigital.com/)
* [Lycos About page](http://info.lycos.com/)

[Category:University spin-offs](/wiki/Category:University_spin-offs) [Category:Internet companies of the United States](/wiki/Category:Internet_companies_of_the_United_States) [Category:Internet search engines](/wiki/Category:Internet_search_engines) [Category:Web portals](/wiki/Category:Web_portals) [Category:Webmail](/wiki/Category:Webmail) [Category:Companies based in Massachusetts](/wiki/Category:Companies_based_in_Massachusetts) [Category:Telecommunications companies established in 1994](/wiki/Category:Telecommunications_companies_established_in_1994) [Category:Dot-com bubble](/wiki/Category:Dot-com_bubble)