

Sergey Brin

Biography of an Influential Software Engineer

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BACKGROUND

Born on August 21, 1973 in Moscow, Sergey Brin is a Russian-born American computer scientist. In 1979, at the young age of 6, Brin and his family fled the Soviet Union to escape Jewish persecution and emigrated to the United States. After earning his bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Maryland, Brin enrolled in Stanford University to acquire a PhD in Computer Science. It was here in 1998 that he met Larry Page who he then co-founded the search engine firm Google with. Today, Brin has an estimated net worth of \$46 billion and is the 13th richest person in the world. He has established himself as a well-known public speaker after giving talks at several international academic, business and technology forums. Brin currently holds presidency of Google's parent company Alphabet Inc.



BRIN & PAGE

Brin met Page during an orientation for new students at Stanford University in 1998. At this time, Brin was studying data mining which involved analysing patterns and extracting relationships within large amounts of data. As part of a research project, Brin and Page decided to develop a search engine that



would list results based on web page popularity. Brin and Page developed the "PageRank" algorithm, which calculated web page relevance to a particular user's query. In 1997, the pair registered the domain www.google.com. They had called their search engine Google after the mathematical term "googol" which is the name given to the large number 10^{100} i.e. the digit 1 followed by one hundred zeros. As they did not have a web developer to create anything visually elaborate, Brin and Page set up a simple search page for users using only their basic HTML programming skills. In

the early days of Google, Brin and Page ran the search engine from their dorm rooms in Stanford University. Brin's room served as the office and programming centre while Page's served as a data hub. By 1999, Google had eight employees and had their own office complex known as 'Googleplex' in Palo Alto, California. With the rapid increase in the search engine's popularity over the following few years, the firm began to further expand. In August 2004, Google was first launched for public use. Today, the

search engine processes over 3.5 billion search queries each day so it's no surprise that Brin and Page are now two of the richest men in the world. In 2015, Google restructured its business with a new parent company called Alphabet Inc which today, Brin holds presidency of.

OTHER PROJECTS

Alongside Google, Brin is known for his involvement in more personal projects that stretch beyond the boundaries of the famous search engine, Google. Google.org is just one example of these projects developed by Brin and Page in order to solve the world's energy and climate problems. Founded in 2005, Google.org is the charitable branch of Google and is known for its several high-impact grants to non-profit organisations using technology and data in innovative ways.

In 2012 Brin became involved with the Project Glass program developed by Google to create an augmented reality head-mounted display. The product was designed to provide much of the same functionality as smart phones but would be controlled by voice commands making the devices hands-free. When the initial prototype was released to the public in 2013, it received a lot of criticism and many users expressed concerns regarding privacy and safety. Production of the Google Glass prototype has since been discontinued and in July 2017, it was announced that a new product called 'Google Glass Enterprise' would be released.

In 2015, during a corporate restructuring of Google, Brin and Page founded Alphabet Inc. The aim of the restructuring was to narrow Google's scope by moving subsidiaries from Google into a new company called Alphabet. As well as being a co-founder of this new company, Brin has been president of Alphabet Inc since its establishment in 2015 and remains in this position today.

As well as the success of the Google search Engine, Brin has been involved with the development of numerous new products such as AdSense/AdWords, Google News, Google Maps, Google Earth and Gmail, as well as the Android mobile Operating System. He continues to tackle problems beyond the scope of Google, with his latest development being the driverless car.



AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

The biggest accomplishment for Brin to date is the formation of Google. The company that he co-founded from the dorms of Stanford University in 1998 has grown exponentially and witnessed incredible success in such a short period of time.

Brin was named as one of the top 100 innovators in the world under the age of 35 alongside Page in 2002. The pair also received an honorary MBA from IE Business School in 2003 as well as both being Award Recipients and National Finalists for the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the same year. In

2004, Brin and Page received the Academy of Achievement's Golden Plate Award as well as the Marconi Foundation Prize.

By 2009, the couple were the 5th most powerful people in the world and today Brin still holds his spot within the top 30 according to forbes.com.