

Ajay Bhatt - Inventor of the USB standard (India)

Ajay Bhatt is an inventor and programmer born in Bangalore, India in 1957. He has invented several widely used technologies and holds 132 US and international patents, but his most famous invention is the USB standard.

After graduating from university in Baroda, India, Ajay moved to New York in the United States to get his Masters degree. Once he graduated, he started looking for work in the industry and began working at the computer chip company Intel in 1990, where he worked until 2016!

In 1994, Ajay and his team at Intel released their first version of the USB connector. Before this, computer users had to negotiate a maze of competing plug designs on the back of their desktops, install new drivers and often open up the machine to add new computer cards or devices! This was followed by a tedious process of trial and error, which required repeated rebooting of the computer system and fine-tuning until everything worked properly.

Every time a new peripheral device was added, it became increasingly difficult for the computer to keep separate the various 'conversations' and choose between competing tasks. Often, some of the functions of various devices would simply stop working - or the computer would crash unexpectedly. The invention of USB meant that all the devices would speak the same language on the same channel together, making the whole process much more efficient.

Even though more than ten billion devices use USB every day to connect to one another or recharge batteries, Ajay has never received any money from his creation. Ajay has said about his invention of the USB that he "didn't do it for the money, but to bring change to the world of technology." What a great guy!

Some other things Ajay has invented include:

- AGP (Accelerated Graphics Port)
- PCI (Peripheral Component Interconnect) Express
- Scalable Method Link Configuration