

Paul Allen, co-founder of Microsoft, dies aged 65

Notes & Cues:	<p>Article:</p> <p>Paul Allen, who co-founded Microsoft with his childhood friend Bill Gates, has died. He was 65.</p> <p>Earlier this month Allen said the cancer he was treated for in 2009, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, had returned.</p> <p>Allen and his high school friend Gates founded Microsoft in 1975. He served as the company’s executive vice-president of research and new product development until 1983, when he left for health reasons. He stayed as a major shareholder and member of the board.</p> <p>“I am heartbroken by the passing of one of my oldest and dearest friends, Paul Allen, ” said Bill Gates in a statement on Monday. Despite being less well-known than Bill Gates, Allen played a critical role in developing the personal computer at a time when the typical computer was the size of a room and far too expensive for most people or businesses to own.</p> <p>It was Allen who came up with the name Microsoft and, according to his memoir Idea Man, it was he who came up with the idea to write a software program for the world’s first micro-computer.</p> <p>Microsoft’s big break came in 1980, when IBM decided to move into personal computers. IBM asked Microsoft to provide the operating system.</p> <p>The decision thrust Microsoft onto the throne of technology and the two Seattle natives became billionaires. Both later dedicated themselves to philanthropy.</p> <p>Over the course of several decades, Allen gave more than \$2bn to a wide range of interests, including ocean health, homelessness and advancing scientific research.</p>
<p>Summary:</p>	