

## Bill Gates

William Henry "Bill" Gates III, born in 1955, is an American Business man, philanthropist and chairman of Microsoft the company he founded with Paul Allen. He is one of the world's wealthiest people.

Gates is one of the best-known entrepreneurs of the century and is a pioneer in the personal computer industry. Gates is also well known for the money he donates to various charitable and educational organizations as well as for his generous gifts to research programs. Today, he and his wife, Melinda, work full-time at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Gates was born in Seattle, Washington to William H. and Mary Gates. His father was a prominent lawyer and his mother served on the board of directors for a Bank system and the United Way. When he was 13, Gates took an interest in programming a computer at his school and wrote his first computer program. Later, Gates became so good at programming, that he wrote a class scheduling program for his school. Gates graduate from high school in 1973 and he enrolled in Harvard. In 1975, Gates started a software company with his friend Paul Allen. They named their partnership "Micro-Soft" and had their first office located in Albuquerque. Within a year, the hyphen was dropped, and on November 26, 1976, the trade name "Microsoft" was registered with the Office of the Secretary of the State of New Mexico. Gates never returned to Harvard to complete his studies. Over the years, Microsoft has grown into a multi-billion dollar business.

Bill Gates and his wife, Melinda have two daughters and one son.