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C:\>_

From DOS to Windows

the $50,000 deal that built Microsoft

BILL GATES · PAUL ALLEN



Bill Gates

A MYWEBUNIVERSITY STORY

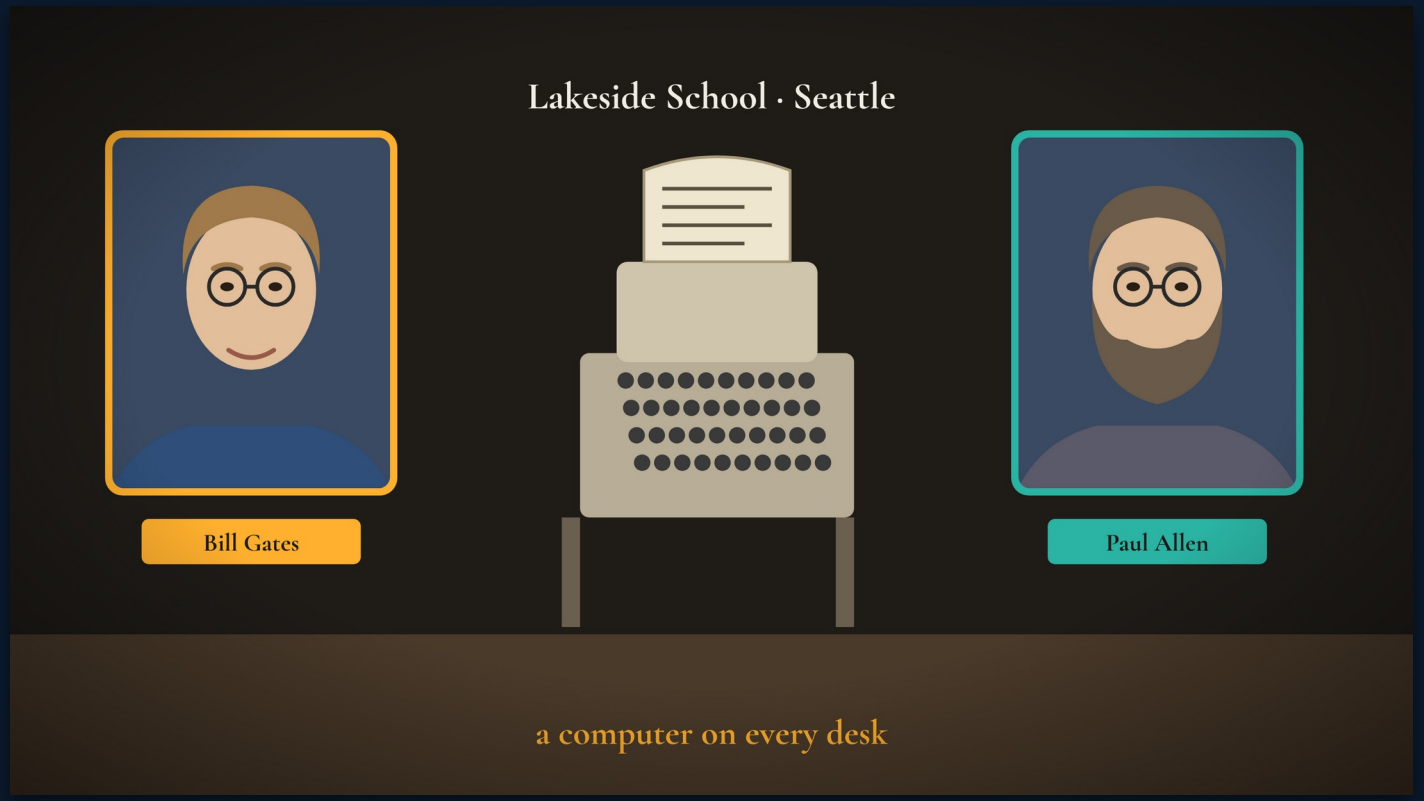
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From DOS to Windows

The Story of Microsoft

Bill Gates · Paul Allen · a billion desks

Two Friends from Seattle



- Bill Gates and Paul Allen met at Lakeside School, Seattle
- Teenagers on the school's computer terminal
- Dream: a computer on every desk and in every home

01

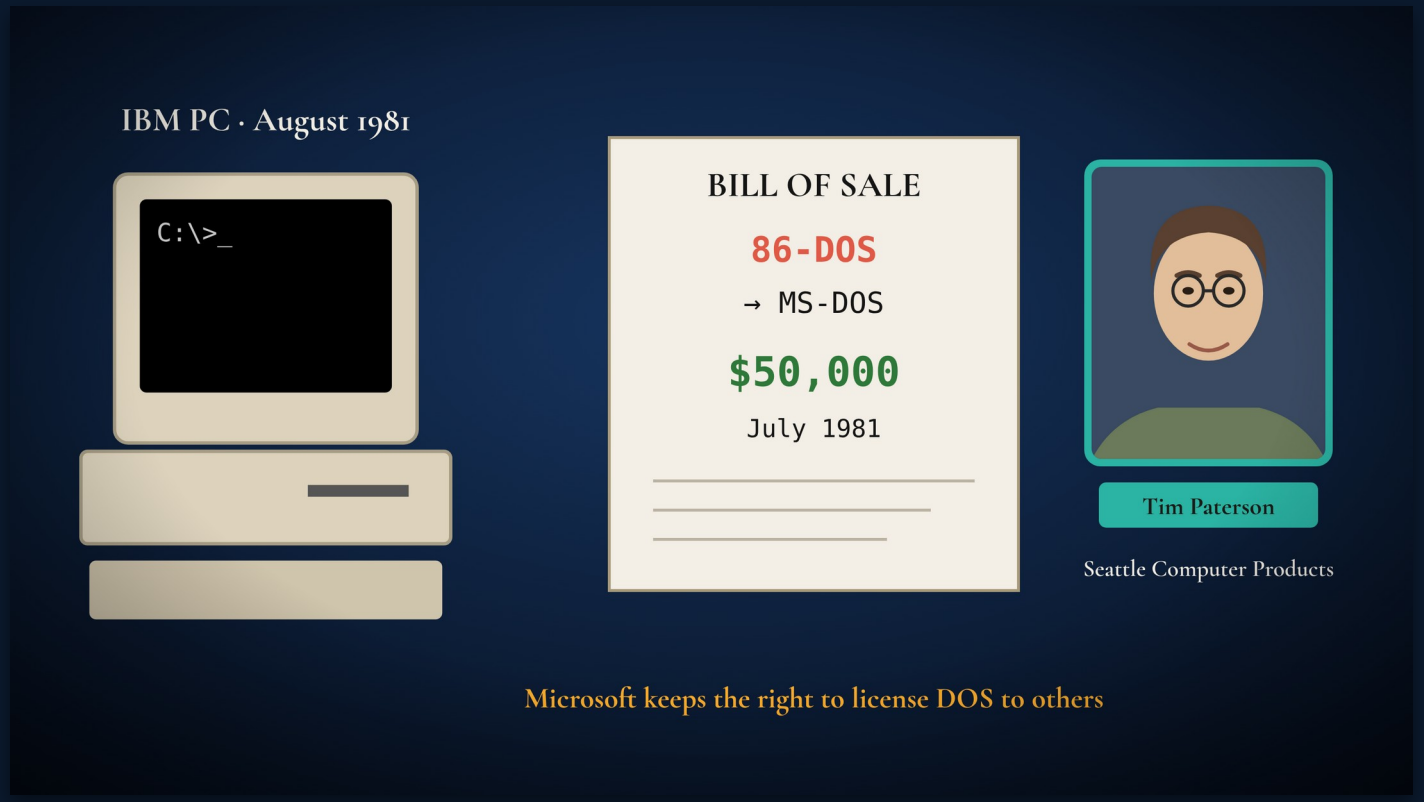
Microsoft Is Born, 1975



- 1975: Altair 8800 on a magazine cover
- Gates and Allen write BASIC for it
- April 4, 1975: Micro-Soft founded in Albuquerque

02

The Deal of the Century



- 1980: IBM needs an OS for its PC
- 86-DOS by Tim Paterson: licensed, then bought for $50,000 (July 1981)
- Aug 1981: IBM PC ships with DOS; Microsoft keeps licensing rights

03

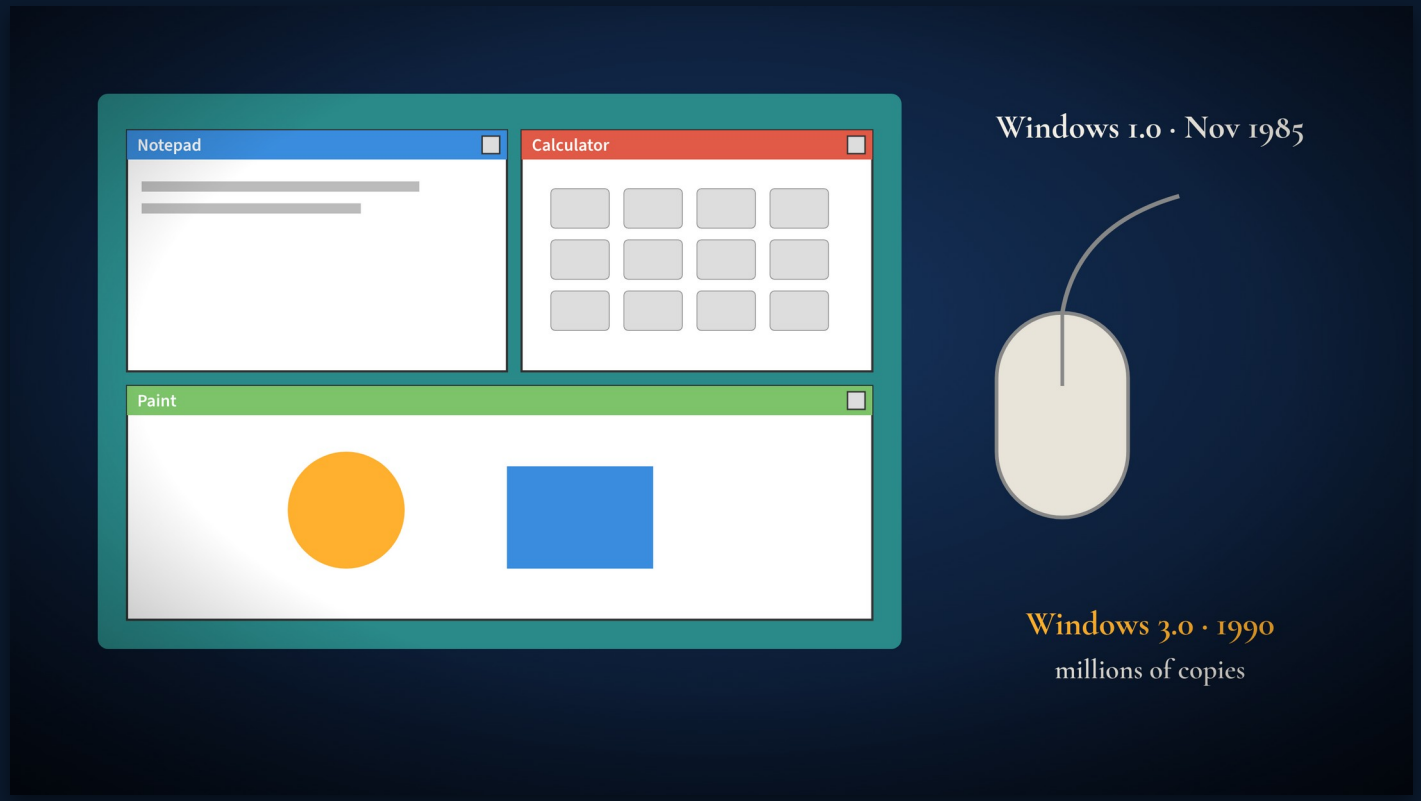
A PC on Every Desk



- Compatible PCs from Compaq and many others
- Almost all of them ran MS-DOS
- C:\> dir · copy · format

04

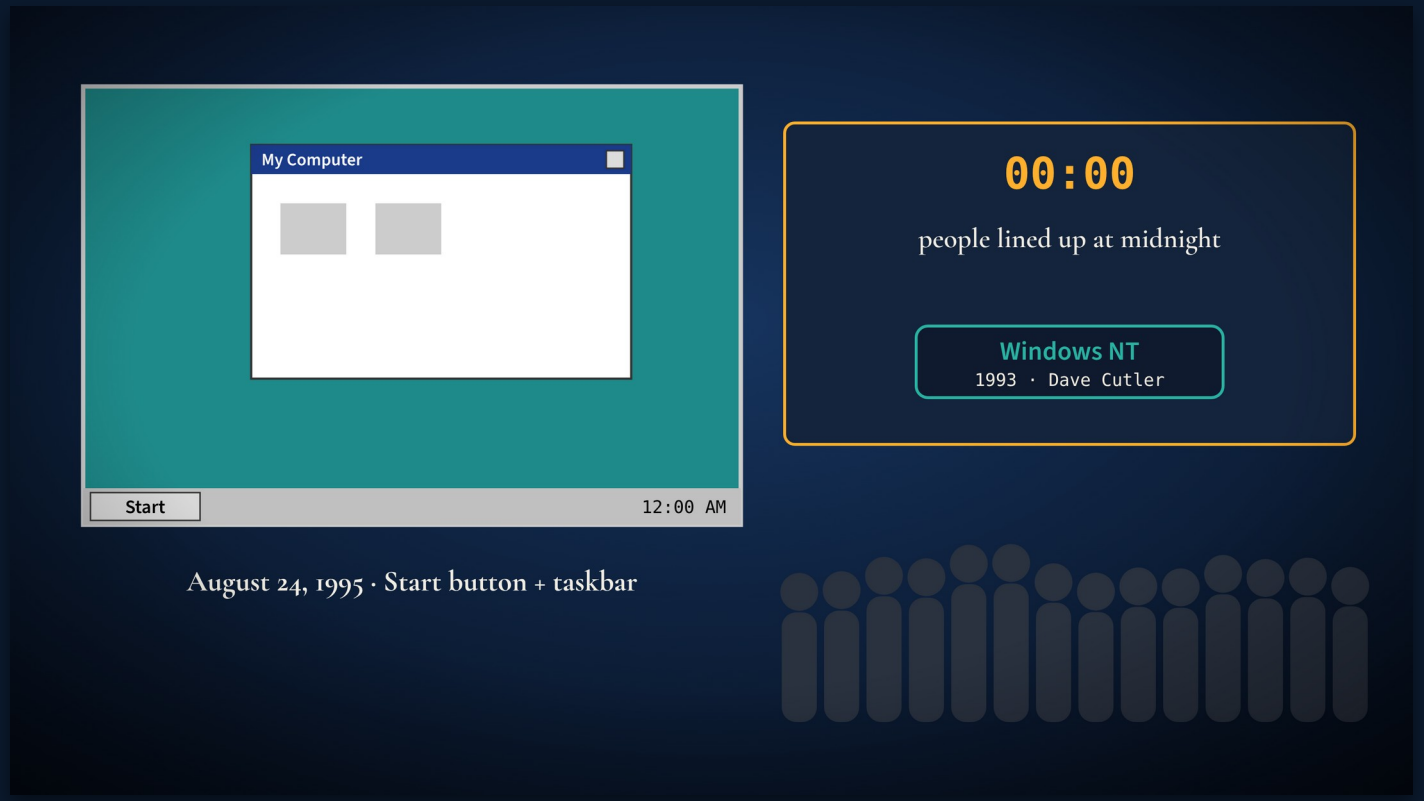
Windows Opens



- Nov 1985: Windows 1.0 — windows, menus, mouse
- Ran on top of DOS
- 1990: Windows 3.0, a huge success

05

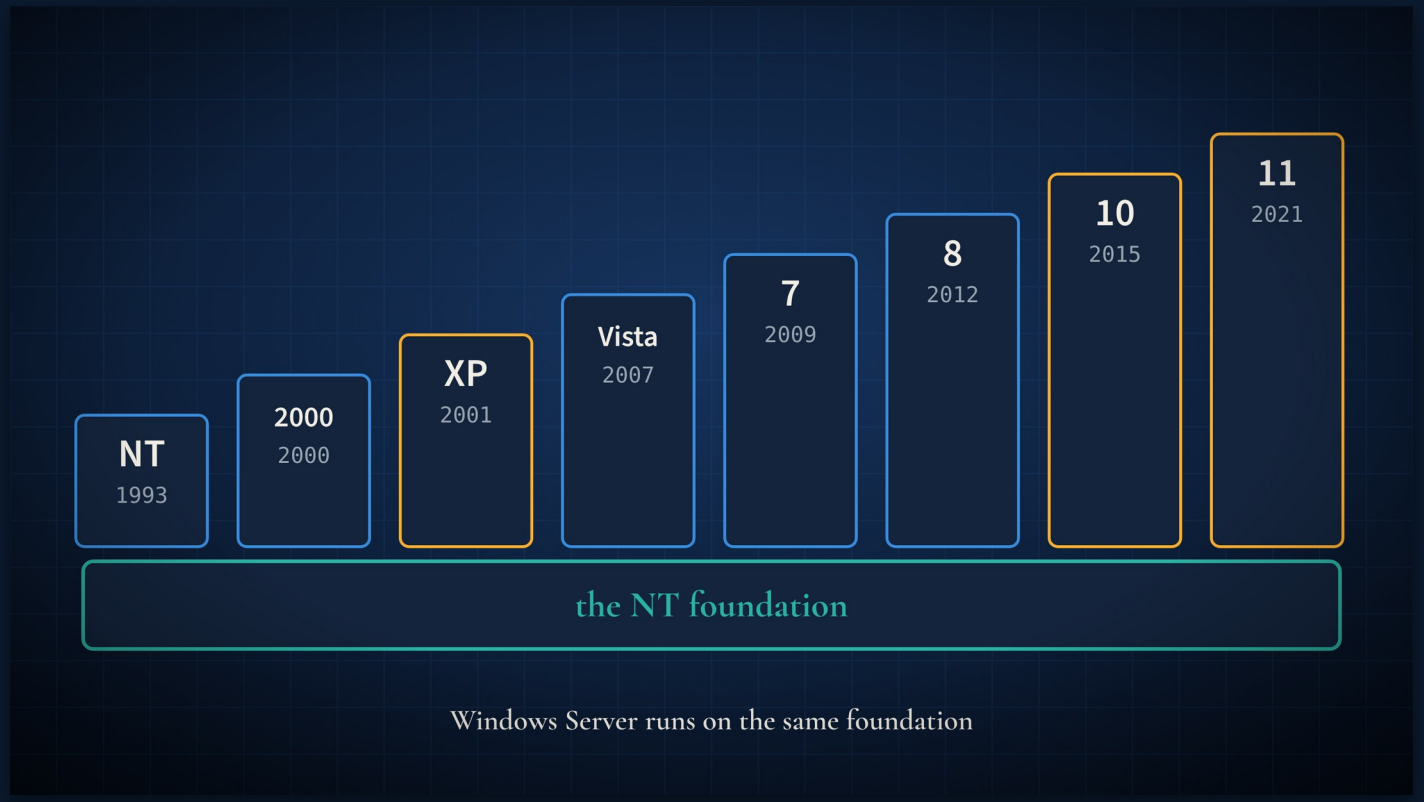
Start Me Up: Windows 95



- Aug 24, 1995: Windows 95, Start button and taskbar
- Midnight lines at stores
- 1993: Windows NT, led by Dave Cutler

06

One Strong Foundation



- 2001: Windows XP brings NT to home users
- 7, 10 and 11 are all built on NT
- Windows Server runs on the same foundation

07

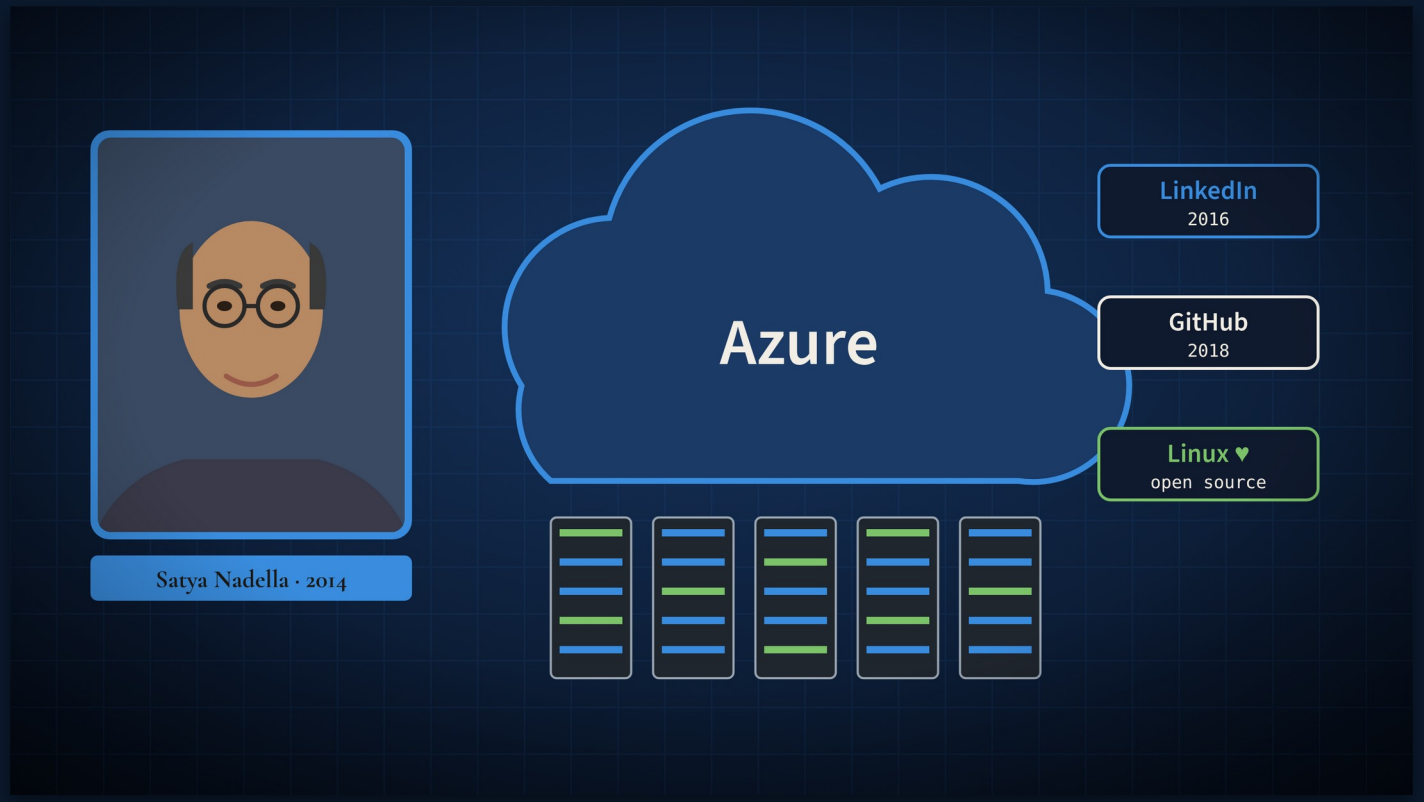
Office and the Internet



- Word, Excel and PowerPoint become standard tools
- 2000: Steve Ballmer becomes CEO
- Bill Gates: software strategy, then philanthropy

08

A New Era: The Cloud



- 2014: Satya Nadella becomes CEO
- Azure cloud · LinkedIn (2016) · GitHub (2018)
- Microsoft embraces Linux and open source

09

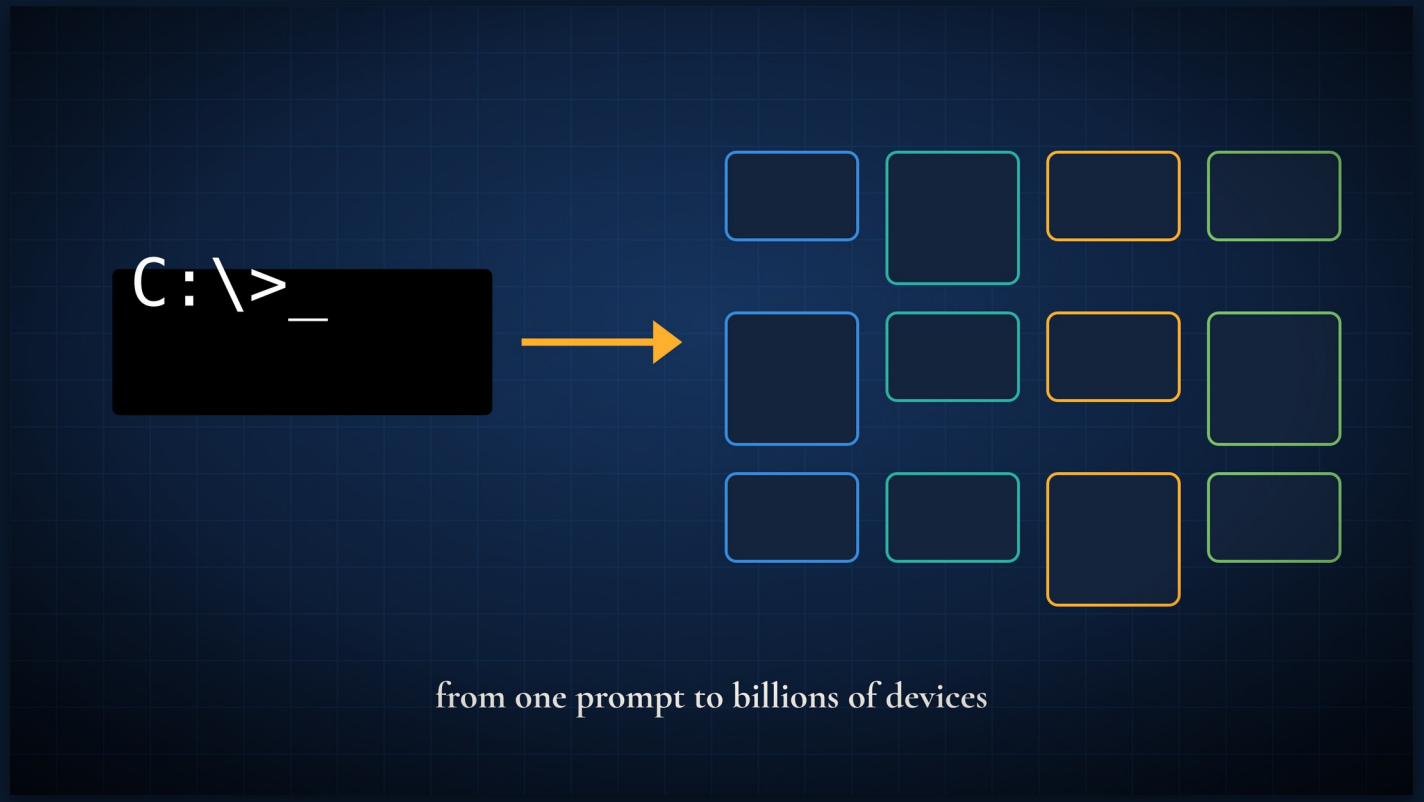
Giving It Back



- Paul Allen, 1953–2018
- Gates Foundation: billions for health and education
- May 2025: about $200 billion to be given; foundation to close by 2045

10

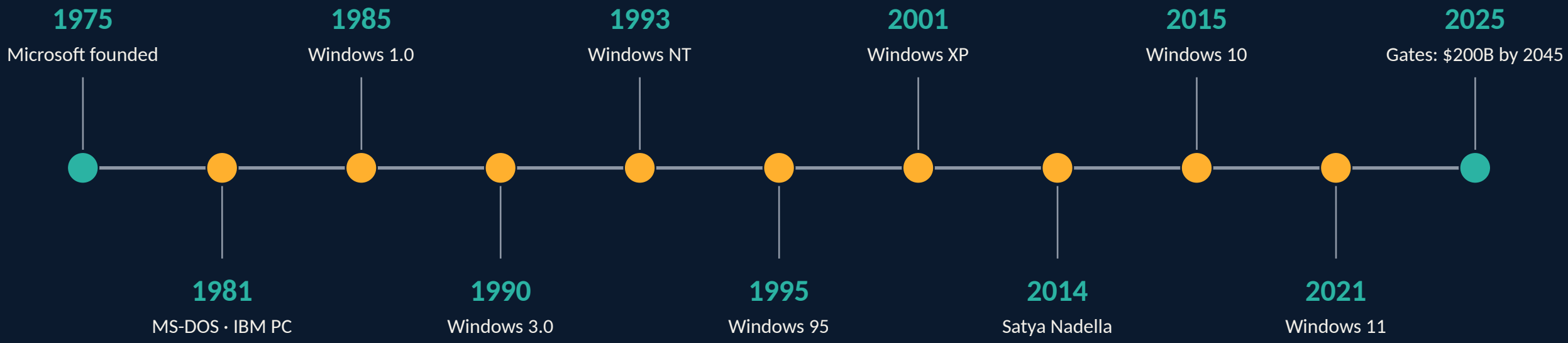
From C:\> to the World



- From a C:\> prompt to billions of devices
- Software + a clear vision reaches every home
- Two teenagers who loved computers

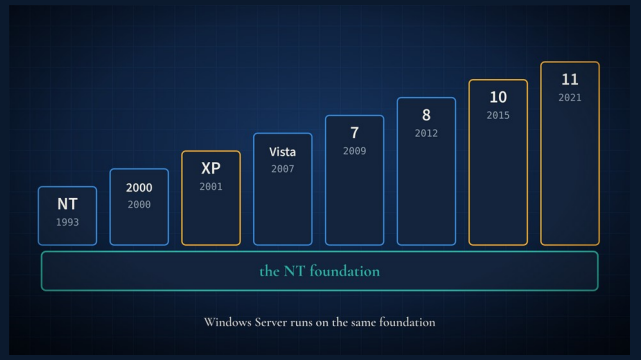
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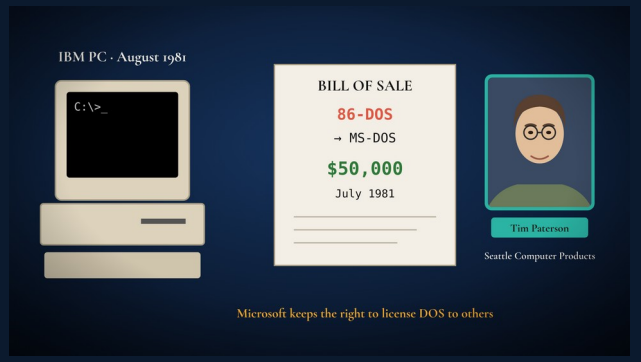
Timeline: 1975 to 2025



Sources and Further Reading

1. Microsoft corporate history — news.microsoft.com
2. “86-DOS,” Wikipedia — Tim Paterson, Seattle Computer Products; Microsoft purchase, July 1981
3. The Chronicle of Philanthropy, “The Gates Foundation … announces plans to shutter in 2045,” May 8, 2025
4. Paul Allen, Idea Man (2011); Bill Gates, Source Code (2025)





Thank you for watching

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