I'm not a bot

Its the end of an era. After 14 years, my good friend and partner Sheryl Sandberg is stepping down as COO of Meta.When Sheryl joined me in 2008, I was only 23 years old and I barely knew anything about running a company. Wed built a great product the Facebook website but we didnt yet have a profitable business and we were struggling to transition from a small startup to a real organization. Sheryl architected our ads business, hired great people, forged our management culture, and taught me how to run a company. She created opportunities for millions of people around the world, and she deserves the credit for so much of what Meta is today.Its unusual for a business partnership like ours to last so long. I think ours did because Sheryl is such an amazing person, leader, partner, and friend. She cares deeply about the people in her life and she is generous about nurturing relationships and helping you grow as a person. She has taught me so much and she has been there for many of the important moments in my life, both personally and professionally. Whether going through the different transitions weve made as a company over the years, or when she supported me and Priscilla as we navigated challenges having children, our partnership has always been deeper than just business.Im going to miss running this company with Sheryl. But Im glad that shell continue to serve on our board of directors so we can benefit from her wisdom and experience even after she transitions out of her day-to-day management role in the coming months.Looking forward, I dont plan to replace Sheryls role in our existing structure. Im not sure that would be possible since shes a superstar who defined the COO role in her own unique way. But even if it were possible, I think Meta has reached the point where it makes sense for our product and business groups to be more closely integrated, rather than having all the business and operations functions organized separately from our products.One of Sheryls greatest legacies is the incredible team she has built. Some of these leaders have already stepped up into larger roles reporting to me, like Nick Clegg as President, Global Affairs and Jennifer Newstead as Chief Legal Officer.Marne Levine, our Chief Business Officer and the top business person who handles our partnerships, will report to Javier Olivan so that our Ads and Business Platform product group will be closer to the Meta Business Group.Javi will become our next Chief Operating Officer since he will now lead our integrated ads and business products in addition to continuing to lead our infrastructure, integrity, analytics, marketing, corporate development and growth teams. But this role will be different from what Sheryl has done. It will be a more traditional COO role where Javi will be focused internally and operationally, building on his strong track record of making our execution more efficient and rigorous. As part of this, Molly Cutler, our VP Strategic Response, will join Javis team and report to Naomi Gleit.Justin Osofsky will report to Chris Cox. In addition to his role overseeing Global Operations and Instagrams business organization, Justin will now take on an additional responsibility building a content team that works across business and product that will train our AI recommendation systems to help you discover the most interesting, relevant, and personalized content across Facebook and Instagram.Lori Goler, our Head of People, will now report directly to me. Maxine Williams, our Chief Diversity Officer, will continue her role on our People team, working on my staff as well.These are all talented and experienced leaders who Ive worked closely with over the years, and Im confident theyll continue to do great work in this new structure.Im sad that the day is coming when I wont get to work as closely with Sheryl. But more than anything, Im grateful for everything she has done to build Meta. She has done so much for me, for our community, and for the world and were all better off for it. American businessman (born 1984)"Zuckerberg" redirects here. For other uses, see Zuckerberg (disambiguation).Mark ZuckerbergZuckerberg in 2019BornMark Elliot Zuckerberg (1984-05-14) May 14, 1984 (age41)White Plains, New York, U.S.OthernamesZuckEducationHarvard University (dropped out)OccupationsBusinessmancomputer programmerYearsactive2004presentTitleCo-founder, chairman and CEO of Meta Platforms and FacebookCo-founder and co-CEO of Chan Zuckerberg InitiativeSpousePriscilla Chan (m.2012)Children3RelativesRandi Zuckerberg (sister)Donna Zuckerberg (sister)Websitefacebook.com/zuckSignatureThis article is part of a series aboutMeta PlatformsHistoryInstagramWhatsAppAcquisitionsProducts and servicesFacebook2021 outageFeaturesDatingFeedLike buttonReelsOther productsInstagramThreadsMessengerKidsMeta AIMeta PortalQuestQuest 2Quest 3Quest 3SQuest ProSupernaturalRay-Ban StoriesWhatsAppPeopleExecutives and board membersMark ZuckerbergSheryl SandbergNotable employeesAdam MosseriRelated organizationsOversight BoardBusinessCriticismPrivacy concernsContent managementCensorship ofCensorship byCambridge Analytica data scandal2020 ad boycotts2021 company files leakWhatsApp security and privacy featuresWhatsApp snooping scandalLitigationYoung v. Facebook, Inc. (2011)Fraley v. Facebook, Inc. (2016)Force v. Facebook, Inc. (2019)FTC v. Meta Platforms (ongoing)RelatedFacebook, Inc. IPOvteMark Elliot Zuckerberg (/zkrbr/; born May 14, 1984) is an American businessman who co-founded the social media service Facebook and its parent company Meta Platforms, of which he is the chairman, chief executive officer, and controlling shareholder. Zuckerberg has been the subject of multiple lawsuits regarding the creation and ownership of the website as well as issues such as user privacy.Born in White Plains, New York, Zuckerberg briefly attended Harvard College, where he launched Facebook in February 2004 with his roommates Eduardo Saverin, Andrew McCollum, Dustin Moskovitz and Chris Hughes. Zuckerberg took the company public in May 2012 with majority shares. He became the world's youngest self-made billionaire[a] in 2008, at age 23, and has consistently ranked among the world's wealthiest individuals. According to Forbes, Zuckerberg's estimated net worth stood at US$221.2 billion as of May 2025, making him the second-richest individual in the world.[2]Zuckerberg has used his funds to organize multiple large donations, including the establishment of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. A film depicting Zuckerberg's early career, legal troubles and initial success with Facebook, The Social Network, was released in 2010 and won multiple Academy Awards. His prominence and fast rise in the technology industry has prompted political and legal attention.Mark Elliot Zuckerberg was born on May 14, 1984, in White Plains, New York, to psychiatrist Karen (neKempner) and dentist Edward Zuckerberg.[3][4] He and his three sisters (Arielle, Randi, and Donna) were raised in a Reform Jewish household[5] in Dobbs Ferry, New York.[6] Their great-grandparents were emigrants from Austria, Germany, and Poland.[7] Zuckerberg initially attended Ardsley High School before transferring to Phillips Exeter Academy. He was captain of the fencing team.[8][9]Zuckerberg learned computer programming in his childhood. At about the age of eleven, he created "ZuckNet", a program that allowed computers at the family home and his father's dental office to communicate with each other.[10] During Zuckerberg's high-school years, he worked to build a music player called the Synapse Media Player. The device used machine learning to learn the user's listening habits, which was posted to Slashdot[11] and received a rating of 3 out of 5 from PC Magazine.[12] The New Yorker once said of Zuckerberg, "some kids played computer games. Mark created them."[6] While still in high school, he attended Mercy College taking a graduate computer course on Thursday evenings.[6]The New Yorker noted that by the time Zuckerberg began classes at Harvard in 2002, he had already achieved a "reputation as a programming prodigy".[6] He studied psychology and computer science,[13] resided in Kirkland House,[14] and belonged to Alpha Epsilon Pi.[6] In his second year, he wrote a program that he called CourseMatch, which allowed users to make class selection decisions based on the choices of other students and help them form study groups.[15] Later, he created a different program he initially called Facemash that let students select the best-looking person from a choice of photos. Arie Hasit, Zuckerberg's roommate at the time, explained:We had books called "Face Books", which included the names and pictures of everyone who lived in the student dorms. At first, he built a site and placed two pictures, or pictures of two males and two females. Visitors to the site had to choose who was "hotter" and according to the votes there would be a ranking.[16]The site went up over a weekend, but by Monday morning, the college shut it down, because its popularity had overwhelmed one of Harvard's network switches, preventing students from accessing the Internet.[17] In addition, many students complained that their photos were being used without permission. Zuckerberg apologized publicly, and the student paper ran articles stating that his site was "completely improper".[16]Further information: Facebook and History of FacebookExternal videos "Mark Zuckerberg's career in 90 seconds | Tech Gurus" via The Daily Telegraph[18]In January 2004, Zuckerberg began writing code for a new website.[19] On February 4, 2004, Zuckerberg launched "Thefacebook", originally located at thefacebook.com, in partnership with his roommates Eduardo Saverin, Andrew McCollum, Dustin Moskovitz, and Chris Hughes.[20][21] An earlier inspiration for Facebook may have come from Phillips Exeter Academy, the prep school from which Zuckerberg graduated in 2002. It published its own student directory, "The Photo Address Book", which students referred to as "The Facebook". Such photo directories were an important part of the student social experience at many private schools. With them, students were able to list attributes such as their class years, their friends, and their telephone numbers.[21]Zuckerberg in 2005Six days after the site launched, three Harvard seniors, Cameron Winklevoss, Tyler Winklevoss, and Divya Narendra, accused Zuckerberg of intentionally misleading them into believing that he would help them build a social network called HarvardConnection.com, when he was using their ideas to build a competing product.[22] The three complained to The Harvard Crimson, and the newspaper began an investigation in response. While Zuckerberg tried to convince the editors not to run the story,[23] he also broke into two of the editors' email accountsfor which he made use of their private login data logs from TheFacebook.[24][25]Following the official launch of the Facebook social media platform, the three filed a lawsuit against Zuckerberg that resulted in a settlement.[26] The agreed settlement was for 1.2million Facebook shares and $20million in cash.[27]Zuckerberg's Facebook started off as just a "Harvard thing" until he decided to spread it to other schools, enlisting the help of roommate and co-founder Dustin Moskovitz.[28] They began with Columbia University, New York University, Stanford University, Dartmouth College, Cornell University, University of Pennsylvania, Brown University, and Yale University.[29]Zuckerberg dropped out of Harvard in his sophomore year in order to complete the project.[30] Zuckerberg, Moskovitz and the other co-founders moved to Palo Alto, California, where they leased a small house that served as an office. Over the summer, Zuckerberg met Peter Thiel, who invested in his company. They got their first office in mid-2004. According to Zuckerberg, the group planned to return to Harvard, but eventually decided to remain in California, where Zuckerberg appreciated the "mythical place" of Silicon Valley, the center of computer technology in California.[31][32] They had already turned down offers by major corporations to buy the company. In an interview in 2007, Zuckerberg explained his reasoning: "It's not because of the amount of money. For me and my colleagues, the most important thing is that we create an open information flow for people. Having media corporations owned by conglomerates is just not an attractive idea to me."[33] The same year, speaking at Y Combinator's Startup School course at Stanford University, Zuckerberg made a controversial assertion that "young people are just smarter" and that other entrepreneurs should bias towards hiring young people.[34]Zuckerberg restated these goals to Wired magazine in 2010, "The thing I really care about is the mission, making the world open."[35] Earlier, in April 2009, Zuckerberg had sought the advice of former Netscape CFO Peter Currie regarding financing strategies for Facebook.[36] On July 21, 2010, Zuckerberg reported that Facebook had reached the 500-million-user mark.[37] When asked whether Facebook could earn more income from advertising as a result of its phenomenal growth, he explained:I guess we could... If you look at how much of our page is taken up with ads compared to the average search query. The average for us is a little less than 10 percent of the pages and the average for search is about 20 percent taken up with ads... That's the simplest thing we could do. But we aren't like that. We make enough money. Right, I mean, we are keeping things running; we are growing at the rate we want to.[35]In 2010, Steven Levy, who wrote the 1984 book Hackers: Heroes of the Computer Revolution, wrote that Zuckerberg "clearly thinks of himself as a hacker". Zuckerberg said that "it's OK to break things" "to make them better".[38][39] Facebook instituted "hackathons" held every six to eight weeks where participants would have one night to conceive of and complete a project.[38] The company provided music, food, and beer at the hackathons, and many Facebook staff members, including Zuckerberg, regularly attended.[39] "The idea is that you can build something really good in a night", Zuckerberg told Levy. "And that's part of the personality of Facebook now... It's definitely very core to my personality."[38]In 2007, Zuckerberg was added to MIT Technology Review's TR35 list as one of the top 35 innovators in the world under the age of 35.[40] Vanity Fair magazine named Zuckerberg number 1 on its 2010 list of the Top 100 "most influential people of the Information Age".[41] Zuckerberg ranked number 23 on the Vanity Fair 100 list in 2009.[42] In 2010, Zuckerberg was chosen as number 16 in New Statesman's annual survey of the world's 50 most influential figures.[43]In a 2011 interview with PBS shortly after the death of Steve Jobs, Zuckerberg said that Jobs had advised him on how to create a management team at Facebook that was "focused on building as high quality and good things as you are".[44]Zuckerberg and Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev during their meeting at the Russian leader's residence outside Moscow, October 1, 2012On October 1, 2012, Zuckerberg met with then Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev in Moscow to stimulate social media innovation in Russia and to boost Facebook's position in the Russian market.[45][46] Russia's communications minister tweeted that Medvedev persuaded Zuckerberg to open a research center in Moscow instead of trying to lure away Russian programmers. In 2012, Facebook had roughly 9 million users in Russia, while domestic clone VK had around 34 million.[47][48] Rebecca Van Dyck, Facebook's head of consumer marketing, said that 85 million American Facebook users were exposed to the first day of the Home promotional campaign on April 6, 2013.[49]On August 19, 2013, The Washington Post reported that Zuckerberg's Facebook profile was hacked by an unemployed web developer.[50]At the 2013 TechCrunch Disrupt conference, held in September, Zuckerberg stated that he was working towards registering the 5billion people who were not connected to the Internet as of the conference on Facebook. Zuckerberg then explained that this is intertwined with the aim of the Internet.org project, whereby Facebook, with the support of other technology companies, seeks to increase the number of people connected to the internet.[51][52]Zuckerberg was the keynote speaker at the 2014 Mobile World Congress (MWC), held in Barcelona, Spain, in March 2014, which was attended by 75,000 delegates. Various media sources highlighted the connection between Facebook's focus on mobile technology and Zuckerberg's speech, stating that mobile represents the future of the company.[53] Zuckerberg's speech expands upon the goal that he raised at the TechCrunch conference in September 2013, whereby he is working towards expanding Internet coverage into developing countries.[54]Alongside other American technology figures such as Jeff Bezos and Tim Cook, Zuckerberg hosted visiting Chinese politician Lu Wei, known as the "Internet czar" for his influence in the enforcement of China's online policy, at Facebook's headquarters on December 8, 2014. The meeting occurred after Zuckerberg participated in a Q&A session at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, on October 23, 2014, where he conversed in Mandarin Chinese; although Facebook is banned in China, Zuckerberg is highly regarded among the people and was at the university to help fuel the nation's burgeoning entrepreneur sector.[55]Zuckerberg fielded questions during a live Q&A session at the company's headquarters in Menlo Park on December 11, 2014. The founder and CEO explained that he does not believe Facebook is a waste of time, because it facilitates social engagement, and participating in a public session was so that he could "learn how to better serve the community".[56][57]Zuckerberg receives a one-dollar salary as CEO of Facebook.[58] In June 2016, Business Insider named Zuckerberg one of the "Top 10 Business Visionaries Creating Value for the World" along with Elon Musk and Sal Khan, due to the fact that he and his wife "pledged to give away 99% of their wealth-then estimated at $55.0 billion".[59]On May 25, 2017, at Harvard's 366th commencement day, Zuckerberg, after giving a commencement speech,[60] received an honorary degree from Harvard.[61][62]In January 2019, Zuckerberg laid plans to integrate an end-to-end encrypted system for three major social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.[63] On August 14, 2020, Facebook integrated the chat systems for Instagram and Messenger on both iOS and Android devices. The update encouraged cross-communication between Instagram and Facebook users.[64]Zuckerberg at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland (January 2009)A month after Zuckerberg launched Facebook in February 2004, i2hub, another campus-only service, created by Wayne Chang and focusing on peer-to-peer file sharing, was launched. At the time, both i2hub and Facebook were gaining the attention of the press and growing rapidly in users and publicity. In August 2004, Zuckerberg, Andrew McCollum, Adam D'Angelo, and Sean Parker launched a competing peer-to-peer file sharing service called Wirehog, a precursor to Facebook Platform applications, which was launched in 2007.[65][66][67]In 2013, Zuckerberg launched Internet.org, which he described as an initiative to provide Internet access to the five billion people without it as of the launch date. The project faced significant opposition in India, where activists said its limited internet ran counter to the principle of net neutrality; Zuckerberg responded by saying that a limited internet was better than no internet. Internet.org was shut down in India in February 2016, although Zuckerberg later met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss further possibilities.[68][69]Zuckerberg is a board member of the solar sail spacecraft development project Breakthrough Starshot, which he co-founded with Yuri Milner and Stephen Hawking in 2016.[70]See also: Criticism of FacebookMain article: ConnectUHarvard students Cameron Winklevoss, Tyler Winklevoss, and Divya Narendra accused Zuckerberg of intentionally making them believe he would help them build a social network called HarvardConnection.com (later called ConnectU).[22] They filed a lawsuit in 2004; it was dismissed on a technicality on March 28, 2007. It was refiled soon thereafter in a federal court in Boston. Facebook countersued in regards to Social Butterfly, a project put out by The Winklevoss Chang Group, an alleged partnership between ConnectU and i2hub. On June 25, 2008, the case settled and Facebook agreed to transfer over 1.2 million common shares and pay $20 million in cash.[71]In November 2007, confidential court documents were posted on the website of 02138, a magazine that catered to Harvard alumni. They included Zuckerberg's Social Security number, his parents' home address, and his girlfriend's address. Although Facebook filed to have the documents removed, the judge ruled in favor of 02138.[72]Main article: Eduardo SaverinIn 2005, Facebook co-founder Eduardo Saverin filed a lawsuit against Zuckerberg and Facebook, alleging that Zuckerberg had illegally spent Saverin's money on personal expenses. The lawsuit was settled out of court and, although terms of the settlement were sealed, the company affirmed Saverin's title as co-founder of Facebook, and Saverin agreed to stop talking to the press.[73][74]In June 2010, then Pakistani Deputy Attorney General Muhammad Azhar Sidiqque launched a criminal investigation into Zuckerberg and Facebook co-founders Dustin Moskovitz and Chris Hughes after a "Draw Muhammad" contest was hosted on Facebook. The investigation also named the anonymous German woman who created the contest. Sidiqque asked the country's police to contact Interpol to have Zuckerberg and the three others arrested for blasphemy. On May 19, 2010, Facebook's website was temporarily blocked in Pakistan until Facebook removed the contest from its website at the end of May. Sidiqque also asked its UN representative to raise the issue with the United Nations General Assembly.[75][76]Main article: Paul CegliaIn June 2010, Paul Ceglia, the owner of a wood pellet fuel company in Allegany County, upstate New York, filed suit against Zuckerberg, claiming 84 percent ownership of Facebook and seeking monetary damages. According to Ceglia, he and Zuckerberg signed a contract on April 28, 2003, that an initial fee of $1,000 entitled Ceglia to 50% of the website's revenue, as well as an additional 1% interest in the business per day after January 1, 2004, until website completion. Zuckerberg was developing other projects at the time, among which was Facemash, the predecessor to Facebook, but did not register the domain name thefacebook.com until January 1, 2004. The Facebook management dismissed the lawsuit as "completely frivolous". Facebook spokesman Barry Schnitt told a reporter that Ceglia's counsel had unsuccessfully sought an out-of-court settlement.[77][78]On October 26, 2012, federal authorities arrested Ceglia, charging him with mail and wire fraud and of "tampering with, destroying and fabricating evidence in a scheme to defraud the Facebook founder of billions of dollars". Ceglia is accused of fabricating emails to make it appear that he and Zuckerberg discussed details about an early version of Facebook, although after examining their emails, investigators found there was no mention of Facebook in them.[79] Some law firms withdrew from the case before it was initiated and others after Ceglia's arrest.[80][81]In 2014, Zuckerberg purchased 700 acres of land on the Hawaiian island of Kauai. In January 2017, Zuckerberg filed eight "quiet title and partition" lawsuits against hundreds of native Hawaiians to claim small tracts of land that they owned within his acreage.[82] Zuckerberg responded to criticisms in a Facebook post, stating that the lawsuits were a good faith effort to pay the partial owners of the land their "fair share".[82] When he learned that Hawaiian land ownership law differs from that of the other 49 states, he dropped the lawsuits. Zuckerberg stated that he regretted not taking the time to understand the process and its history before moving ahead.[83][84]On April 10 and 11, 2018, Zuckerberg testified before the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation regarding the usage of personal data by Facebook in relation to the FacebookCambridge Analytica data scandal.[85][86] He called the whole affair a breach of trust between Aleksandr Kogan, Cambridge Analytica, and Facebook.[87] Zuckerberg refused requests to appear to give evidence on the matter to a Parliamentary committee in the United Kingdom.[88]On October 1, 2020, the US Senate Commerce Committee unanimously voted to issue subpoenas to the CEOs of three top tech firms, including Zuckerberg, Google's Sundar Pichai and Twitter's Jack Dorsey. The subpoenas aimed to force the CEOs to testify about the legal immunity the law affords tech platforms under Section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934. US Republicans argued that the law unduly protected social media companies against allegations of anti-conservative censorship.[89]On March 25, 2021, Zuckerberg testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee regarding Facebook's role in the spread of misinformation and hate speech on the platform. During the hearing, he was questioned about Facebook's handling of user data, its role in the January 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol Building, and its efforts to combat misinformation and hate speech. Zuckerberg acknowledged that Facebook had a responsibility to address these issues and outlined the steps that the company is taking to improve its policies and practices. The hearing was part of a broader effort by Congress to hold tech companies accountable for their role in shaping public discourse and protecting user privacy.[90]In a January 2024 Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on child safety and social media platforms, Zuckerberg, along with other tech CEOs, were questioned about their companies' practices. During the hearing, he apologized to the families of children who were victims of online abuse and harm.[91][92]Court documents allege that Zuckerberg personally rejected Meta's proposals to improve teenagers' mental health. He consistently opposed efforts to enhance well-being on Facebook and Instagram, overriding senior executives such as Instagram head Adam Mosseri and Global Affairs President Nick Clegg, as revealed in an ongoing lawsuit. Internal communications disclosed in the Massachusetts-initiated legal action depict Zuckerberg's resistance to better protect over 30 million teens on Instagram in the U.S., highlighting his substantial influence on Meta's decisions impacting billions of users. These documents also shed light on occasional tensions between Zuckerberg and other Meta officials advocating for improved user well-being.[93]Further information: The Social NetworkJesse Eisenberg (pictured) played Zuckerberg in The Social Network.A movie based on Zuckerberg and the founding years of Facebook, The Social Network, was released on October 1, 2010, starring Jesse Eisenberg as Zuckerberg. After Zuckerberg was told about the film, he responded, "I just wished that nobody made a movie of me while I was still alive."[94] Also, after the film's script was leaked on the Internet and it was apparent that the film would not portray Zuckerberg in a wholly positive light, he stated that he wanted to establish himself as a "good guy".[95] The film is based on the book The Accidental Billionaires by Ben Mezrich, which the book's publicist once described as "big juicy fun" rather than "reportage".[96] The film's screenwriter Aaron Sorkin told New York magazine, "I don't want my fidelity to be the truth; I want it to be storytelling", adding, "What is the big deal about accuracy purely for accuracy's sake, and can we not have the true be the enemy of the good?".[97]Upon winning the Golden Globe Award for Best Picture on January 16, 2011, producer Scott Rudin thanked Facebook and Zuckerberg "for his willingness to allow us to use his life and work as a metaphor through which to tell a story about communication and the way we relate to each other".[98] Sorkin, who won for Best Screenplay, retracted some of the impressions given in his script:[99]I wanted to say to Mark Zuckerberg tonight, if you're watching, Rooney Mara's character makes a prediction at the beginning of the movie. She was wrong. You turned out to be a great entrepreneur, a visionary, and an incredible altruist.In January 2011, Zuckerberg made a surprise guest appearance on Saturday Night Live, which was hosted by Jesse Eisenberg. They both said it was the first time they had met.[100] Eisenberg asked Zuckerberg, who had been critical of his portrayal by the film, what he thought of the movie. Zuckerberg replied, "It was interesting."[101] In a subsequent interview about their meeting, Eisenberg explained that he was "nervous to meet him, because I had spent now, a year and a half thinking about him...". He added, "Mark has been so gracious about something that's really so uncomfortable… The fact that he would do SNL and make fun of the situation is so sweet and so generous. It's the best possible way to handle something that, I think, could otherwise be very uncomfortable."[102][103]According to David Kirkpatrick, former technology editor at Fortune magazine and author of The Facebook Effect: The Inside Story of the Company that is Connecting the World (2011),[104] "the film is only 40% true... he is not snide and sarcastic in a cruel way, the way Zuckerberg is played in the movie." He says that "a lot of the factual incidents are accurate, but many are distorted and the overall impression is false", and concludes that primarily "his motivations were to try and come up with a new way to share information on the Internet".[105]Although the film portrayed Zuckerberg's creation of Facebook in order to elevate his stature after not getting into any of the elite final clubs at Harvard, Zuckerberg stated that he had no interest in joining the clubs.[6] Kirkpatrick agreed that the impression implied by the film is "false". Karel Baloun, a former senior engineer at Facebook, noted that the "image of Zuckerberg as a socially inept nerd is overstated... It is fiction...". He likewise dismissed the film's assertion that he "would deliberately betray a friend".[105]Zuckerberg voiced himself on an episode of The Simpsons titled "Loan-a Lisa", which first aired on October 3, 2010. In the episode, Lisa Simpson and her friend Nelson encounter Zuckerberg at an entrepreneurs' convention. Zuckerberg tells Lisa that she does not need to graduate from college to be wildly successful, referencing Bill Gates and Richard Branson as examples.[106] On October 9, 2010, Saturday Night Live lampooned Zuckerberg and Facebook.[107] Andy Samberg portrayed the role of Zuckerberg. Zuckerberg himself was reported to have been amused, "I thought this was funny."[108]Stephen Colbert awarded a "Medal of Fear" to Zuckerberg at the Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear on October 30, 2010, "because he values his privacy much more than he values yours".[109] Zuckerberg appeared in the climax of 2013 documentary film Terms and Conditions May Apply.[110][111][112] The South Park episode "Franchise Prequel" mocked him. According to CNET, he was portrayed as "a rosy-cheeked bully nerd who utters strange noises, makes peculiar kung fu gestures and turns up wherever he likes in people's houses".[113]Further information: Chan Zuckerberg InitiativeZuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan in May 2013Zuckerberg founded the Startup:Education foundation.[114] It was reported in September 2010 that he had donated $100million to Newark Public Schools, the public school system of Newark, New Jersey.[115][116] Critics noted the timing of the donation as being close to the release of The Social Network, which painted a somewhat negative portrait of Zuckerberg.[117] Zuckerberg responded to the criticism, saying, "The thing that I was most sensitive about with the movie timing was, I didn't want the press about The Social Network movie to get conflated with the Newark project. I was thinking about doing this anonymously just so that the two things could be kept separate."[118] Newark Mayor Cory Booker stated that he and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie had to convince Zuckerberg's team not to make the donation anonymously.[118] The money was largely wasted, according to journalist Dale Russakoff.[119][120]In 2010, Zuckerberg, Bill Gates, and investor Warren Buffett signed The Giving Pledge, in which they said they would donate to charity at least half of their wealth over the course of time, and invited others among the wealthy to donate 50 percent or more of their wealth to charity.[121] In December 2012, Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan said that over the course of their lives they would give the majority of their wealth to "advancing human potential and promoting equality" in the spirit of The Giving Pledge.[122][123]In December 2013, Zuckerberg announced a donation of 18 million Facebook shares to the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, to be executed by the end of the monthbased on Facebook's valuation as of then, the shares totaled $990million in value. Later that month, the donation was recognized as the largest charitable gift on public record for that year.[124] The Chronicle of Philanthropy placed Zuckerberg and his wife at the top of the magazine's annual list of 50 most generous Americans for 2013, having donated roughly $1billion to charity.[125]In October 2014, Zuckerberg and his wife donated $25million to combat the Ebola virus disease, specifically the West African Ebola virus epidemic.[126][127] The couple endowed the foundation of the San Francisco General Hospital in February 2015 with $75million, which was the biggest individual donation to a U.S. public hospital. The hospital honored them by renaming itself as The Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center. Later in 2020, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a near-unanimous, non-binding measure condemning the renaming, citing concerns that a public hospital should not be named after an individual whose social media platform is accused of "endangering public health, spreading misinformation, and violating privacy".[128] On December 1, 2015, the couple pledged to transfer 99% of their Facebook shares, then valued at $45billion, to the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI).[129] The funds would not be transferred immediately, but over the course of their lives.[130] Instead of forming a charitable corporation to donate the value of the stock to, as Bill Gates, Warren Buffett, Larry Page, Sergey Brin and other billionaires have done, Zuckerberg and Chan chose to use the structure of a limited liability company (LLC). Some journalists and academics have said the CZI conducts philanthrocapitalism.[131][132][133]In 2016, CZI gave $600million to create the tax-exempt charity Chan Zuckerberg Biohub, a collaborative research space in San Francisco's Mission Bay district near the University of California, San Francisco, with the intent to foster interaction and collaboration between scientists at UCSF, University of California, Berkeley, and Stanford University. Intellectual property generated would be jointly owned by Biohub and the discoverer's home institution. Unlike foundations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which open up all research funded to unrestricted access and reuse by the public, Biohub retained the right to commercialize any research it funds. Inventors will have the option of making their discoveries open-source, with permission from Biohub.[134][135][136] To increase access to scientific research and promote open science, CZ Biohub requires its investigators and staff scientists to publish submitted manuscripts and related data on preprints servers such as bioRxiv.[137][138] Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Zuckerberg announced $25million in grants to support local journalism that was impacted by the pandemic and $75million in advertisement purchases in local newspapers by Facebook, Inc., where Facebook would market itself.[139]With Barack Obama before a private meeting between Obama and technology business leaders in February 2011In 2002, Zuckerberg registered to vote in Westchester County, New York, where he grew up, but did not cast a ballot until November 2008. Then Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters Spokeswoman, Elma Rosas, told Bloomberg that Zuckerberg is listed as "no preference" on voter rolls, and he voted in at least two of the past three general elections, in 2008 and 2012.[140][141]Zuckerberg has never revealed his own political affiliation or voting history. In February 2013, Zuckerberg hosted his first ever fundraising event for then New Jersey Governor Chris Christie. His particular interest on this occasion was education reform, and Christie's education reform work focused on teachers unions and the expansion of charter schools.[142][143] Later that year, Zuckerberg hosted a campaign fundraiser for then Newark mayor Cory Booker, who was running in the 2013 New Jersey special Senate election.[144] In September 2010, with the support of Governor Chris Christie, Booker obtained a US$100million pledge from Zuckerberg to Newark Public Schools.[145] In December 2012, Zuckerberg donated 18 million shares to the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a community organization that includes education in its list of grant-making areas.[146][147]On April 11, 2013, Zuckerberg led the launch of a 501(c)(4) lobbying group called FWD.us. The founders and contributors to the group were primarily Silicon Valley entrepreneurs and investors, and its president was Joe Green, a close friend of Zuckerberg.[148][149] The goals of the group include immigration reform, improving the state of education in the United States, and enabling more technological breakthroughs that benefit the public,[150][151] yet it has also been criticized for financing ads advocating a variety of oil and gas development initiatives, including drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Keystone XL pipeline.[152] In 2013, numerous liberal and progressive groups, such as The League of Conservation Voters, MoveOn.org, the Sierra Club, Democracy for America, CREDO, Daily Kos, 350.org, and Presente and Progressives United agreed to either not buy or pull their Facebook ads for at least two weeks, in protest of ads funded by FWD.us that were in support of oil drilling and the Keystone XL pipeline, and in opposition to Obamacare among Republican United States senators who back immigration reform.[153]A media report on June 20, 2013, revealed that Zuckerberg actively engaged with Facebook users on his own profile page after the online publication of a FWD.us video. In response to a claim that the FWD.us organization is "just about tech wanting to hire more people", the Internet entrepreneur replied, "The bigger problem we're trying to address is ensuring the 11 million undocumented folks living in this country now and similar folks in the future are treated fairly."[154]In June 2013, Zuckerberg joined Facebook employees in a company float as part of the annual San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Celebration. The company first participated in the event in 2011, with 70 employees, and this number increased to 700 for the 2013 march. The 2013 pride celebration was especially significant, as it followed a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that deemed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional.[155][156]When questioned about the mid-2013 PRISM scandal at the TechCrunch Disrupt conference in September 2013, Zuckerberg stated that the U.S. government "blew it". He further explained that the government performed poorly in regard to the protection of the freedoms of its citizens, the economy, and companies.[51]With then Argentine President Cristina Fernndez de Kirchner in April 2015Zuckerberg placed a statement on his Facebook wall on December 9, 2015, which said that he wants "to add my voice in support of Muslims in our community and around the world" in response to the aftermath of the November 2015 Paris attacks and the 2015 San Bernardino attack.[157][158][159][160] The statement also said that Muslims are "always welcome" on Facebook, and that his position was a result of the fact that, "as a Jew, my parents taught me that we must stand up against attacks on all communities."[161][162]On February 24, 2016, Zuckerberg sent out a company-wide internal memo to employees formally rebuking employees who had crossed out handwritten "Black Lives Matter" phrases on the company walls and had written "All Lives Matter" in their place. Facebook allows employees to free-write thoughts and phrases on company walls. The memo was then leaked by several employees. As Zuckerberg had previously condemned this practice at previous company meetings, and other similar requests had been issued by other leaders at Facebook, Zuckerberg wrote in the memo that he would now consider this overwriting practice not only disrespectful, but "malicious as well". According to Zuckerberg's memo, "Black Lives Matter doesn't mean other lives don't it's simply asking that the black community also achieves the justice they deserve." The memo also noted that the act of crossing something out in itself "means silencing speech, or that one person's speech is more important than another's". Zuckerberg also said in the memo that he would be launching investigations into the incidents.[163][164][165] The New York Daily News interviewed Facebook employees who commented anonymously that, "Zuckerberg was genuinely angry about the incident and it really encouraged staff that Zuckerberg showed a clear understanding of why the phrase 'Black Lives Matter' must exist, as well as why writing through it is a form of harassment and erasure."[163]In January 2017, Zuckerberg criticized Donald Trump's executive order to severely limit immigrants and refugees from some countries.[166] He also funded a state-level ballot initiative for the 2020 general election that would raise taxes by altering California's Proposition 13 to require the tax assessment of commercial and industrial properties in the state at market rate.[167]Especially in his twenties, Zuckerberg had financially supported various progressive causes such as immigration reform and social justice. At least among Republicans, he was generally seen as pro-liberal. In an August 2024 letter to the House Judiciary Committee however, Zuckerberg stated he regretted not doing more to resist pressure from the Biden administration to censor content related to COVID-19. He also noted he no longer intends to donate towards election infrastructure; Republicans had seen those contributions as non-neutral, labeling them "Zuckerbucks". By 2024, Zuckerberg was discouraging employee activism at Facebook, and according to The New York Times, had privately described his politics as leaning towards libertarianism or classical liberalism.[168][169][170][171]With then President Donald Trump at the White House in September 2019In Donald Trump's book Save America, published in September 2024, Trump described Zuckerberg's visits to the White House and wrote "We are watching him closely, and if he does anything illegal this time he will spend the rest of his life in prison as will others who cheat in the 2024 Presidential Election."[172] Two months later, they dined at the Mar-a-Lago resort, with Zuckerberg aiming to mend his and his firm's relationship with Trump after the latter won the election.[173] Around the same time, Meta reportedly donated $1 million to a Trump-related fund.[174] In January 2025, he said: "We now have a U.S. administration that is proud of our leading companies, prioritizes American technology winning and that will defend our values and interests abroad."[175] Zuckerberg was one of a handful of technology leaders positioned prominently at Trump's inauguration. In March 2025, Zuckerberg attempted to leverage his relationship with the Trump administration to get a favorable settlement in an antitrust case where the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) was asking for $30 billion.[176]With his wife, Priscilla Chan, in 2014Zuckerberg met fellow Harvard student Priscilla Chan at a frat party during his sophomore year. They began dating in 2003.[177] In September 2010, Chan, who was a medical student at the University of California, San Francisco at the time,[178] moved into his rented house in Palo Alto, California.[179][180] They married on May 19, 2012, in the grounds of his mansion in an event that also celebrated her graduation from medical school.[181][182] Zuckerberg revealed in July 2015 that they were expecting a baby girl and that Chan had previously experienced three miscarriages.[183] Their first daughter was born in December 2015.[184] They announced in a Chinese New Year video that their daughter's Chinese name is Chen Mingyu (Chinese:).[185] Their second daughter was born in August 2017.[186] Zuckerberg and his wife welcomed their third daughter in March 2023 and announced the news across his social media pages.[187] The couple also have a Puli dog named Beast,[188] who has over two million followers on Facebook.[189] Zuckerberg commissioned the visual artist Daniel Arsham to build a 7-foot-tall sculpture of his wife, which was unveiled in 2024.[190]Time named Zuckerberg one of the most influential people in the world in 2008, 2011, 2016, 2019 and 2025, and nominated him as a finalist several other times. He was named the Time Person of the Year in 2010, the same year when Facebook eclipsed more than half a billion users.[191] He was also included in the Time 100 AI list in 2024.[192] In December 2016, Zuckerberg was ranked tenth on the Forbes list of the World's Most Powerful People.[193] In the Forbes 400 list of wealthiest Americans in 2023, he was ranked eighth with a personal wealth of $106 billion.[194] In October 2024, he became the second richest person in the world.[195][196] As of December2024[update], Zuckerberg's net worth was estimated at $219 billion by Forbes, making him the fourth richest person in the world.[197]In 2017, Zuckerberg called for action to stop global warming in a commencement spe

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Facebooks original name was thefacebook.com. Why did Facebook change its parent companys name to Meta Platforms? Facebook changed its parent companys name to Meta Platforms to emphasize its focus on the metaverse, where users interact in virtual reality environments. Mark Zuckerberg (born May 14, 1984, White Plains, New York, U.S.) is an American computer programmer who was cofounder of the social networking site Facebook. Zuckerberg serves as CEO (2004) of both Facebook and its parent company Meta Platforms.After attending Phillips Exeter Academy, Zuckerberg enrolled at Harvard University in 2002. On February 4, 2004, he launched thefacebook.com (renamed Facebook in 2005), a directory in which fellow Harvard students entered their own information and photos into a template that he had devised. Within two weeks half of the student body had signed up. Zuckerbergs roommates Dustin Moskovitz and Chris Hughes helped him to add features and make the site available to other campuses across the country. Facebook quickly became popular as registered users could create profiles, upload photos and other media, and keep in touch with friends. It differed from other social networking sites, however, in its emphasis on real names (and email addresses), or trusted connections. It also laid particular emphasis on networking, with information disseminated not only to each individuals network of friends but also to friends of friendswhat Zuckerberg called the social graph.In the summer of 2004 the trio moved their headquarters to Palo Alto, California, where Zuckerberg talked venture capitalist Peter Thiel into giving them seed money. Zuckerberg dropped out of Harvard to concentrate on the fledgling company, of which he became CEO and president. In May 2005 Facebook received its first major infusion of venture capital ($12.7 million). Four months later Facebook opened to registration by high-school students. Meanwhile, foreign colleges and universities also began to sign up, and by September 2006 anyone with an e-mail address could join a regional network based on where he or she lived.Facebook's chief executive, Mark Zuckerberg, talking about the Facebook News feature in 2019.Drew Angerer/Getty Images NewsAbout that time Zuckerberg turned down a $1 billion buyout offer from Yahoo!, but in 2007 Facebook struck a deal with Microsoft in which the software company paid $240 million for a 1.6 percent stake in Facebook; two years later Digital Sky Technologies purchased a 1.96 percent share for $200 million. In 2008 Zuckerbergs net worth was estimated at about $1.5 billion. After Facebooks initial public offering (IPO) of stock in 2012, Zuckerbergs net worth was estimated at more than $19 billion.The era of MetaIn October 2021 Facebook announced that it was changing the name of its parent company to Meta Platforms. The name change reflected an emphasis on the metaverse, in which users would interact in virtual reality environments.As of October 2022, Meta had incurred $13.7 billion in total losses on metaverse development. The site also saw low user engagement and quality issues with its metaverse applications. In a February 2023 Facebook post, Zuckerberg announced that the company was pivoting away from the metaverse to focus on generativeartificial intelligenceto build creative and expressive tools, with the metaverse being deemed relevant for a smaller, targeted audience, such asvideo gameplayers.Political leaningsIn the 2000s and 2010s Zuckerberg spoke publicly about issues such as U.S. immigration policies and social justice, with a large part of his public image centered around his philanthropic efforts. His immigration reform group Fwd.US criticized mass deportation of undocumented immigrants in 2015, and Zuckerberg himself endorsed broadly liberal policies. However, after former Pres. Donald Trumps 2016 election win, Facebook was blamed for promoting the political misinformation that had led to his victory. Zuckerberg announced that Facebook would be thoroughly fact-checking its posts in the future, stating in a public post that Facebook planned to take notes from reputable fact-checking organizations.After the January 6 attack, during which a mob of Trump supporters violently protested Pres. Joe Bidens victory by storming the U.S. Capitol, Trump was banned by Zuckerberg from both Facebook and Instagram for his part in inciting the violence. In January 2023 his accounts were reinstated, but with restrictions in place to deter repeat offenses. These restrictions were temporary; in July 2024 they were removed and Zuckerberg himself began to show signs that he would be supporting more conservative policies moving forward. In an August 2024 letter he angrily retaliated against the Biden administrations push to censor COVID-19 misinformation on Facebook during the height of the pandemic, stating that he believed the government pressure was wrong.After Trumps second presidential victory in November 2024, Zuckerberg congratulated him. In January 2025 Zuckerberg announced that the fact-checking programs used on Facebook and Instagram in the past decade would be removed in a bid for the company to get back to its roots around free expression. In December 2024 Meta made a $1 million donation to Trumps inaugural fund.The Editors of Encyclopaedia BritannicaThis article was most recently revised and updated by Tara Ramanathan.19845142090Atari BASIC ProgrammingDavid NewmanNewmanprodigy [8]Mercy CollegeZuckNetJose Antonio VargasSynapse Media PlayerSlashdotPC Magazine32002Alpha Epsilon PiCourseMatchFacemashArie HasitHasitFace Books2004 [8]2017525an honorary Doctor of Laws degree366 [9]20109Facebook20042017525366 [30]2012520FacebookCEOMark ZuckerbergFacebook9-Priscilla Chan27-28 [31] [32]2015121PriscillaChanFacebook 99%450 [33]2016 [34]2017310FacebookCEOMark ZuckerbergFacebookPriscilla Chan [35]T2007FacebookFacebookCEOFacebook [36]Steve JobsBill Gates? 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Here's a look at how he made his wealth and where he invests it. Image source: Meta Platforms. Zuckerberg is the co-founder and CEO of Meta, Facebook's parent company. He's also a college dropout, philanthropist, and self-taught computer programmer.In 2007, at age 23, Zuckerberg became the world's youngest billionaire. In 2025, Forbes estimated Zuckerberg's net worth at $236.3 billion and ranked him as the second-richest person in the world. Zuckerberg transformed himself from a college student to a billionaire between 2004 and 2007. Here are the highlights of his progression:Zuckerberg and four friends launched Facebook from a Harvard dorm room in 2004.Zuckerberg dropped out of Harvard in 2005 to focus on the business.Facebook raised almost $13 million in venture capital in 2005 to fund a nationwide rollout, first to other colleges and universities, then to the public at large.In 2008, Zuckerberg's wealth swelled to an estimated $1.5 billion after Digital Sky Technologies purchased a 1.96% share of Facebook for $200 million.In 2012, Facebook went public, raising $16 billion. Today, the company's enterprise value is estimated to be $1.7 trillion, up from their valuation of $1 trillion in 2021. In 2015, Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, launched the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI), a philanthropic organization. CZI funds programs to create opportunities in northern California communities, advance criminal justice and immigration reform, eradicate disease, and improve education. Zuckerberg is a famous investor, although he's not a fund manager type like Warren Buffett, Ray Dalio, or Carl Icahn. Those guys increased their wealth by learning to pick good companies that already existed. Zuckerberg's path was different. He found his fortune through entrepreneurship -- building a single company from the ground up. Entrepreneurs are innovators who seek to change their industry in some significant way rather than simply service an existing customer base. Zuckerberg's public interviews typically center on Facebook and Meta Platforms, rather than his investing style or which stocks to buy. Still, it's possible to glean a sense of his style by looking at the projects he personally funds and the companies he's rolled into his Meta Platforms empire.Zuckerberg's investmentsMany of Zuckerberg's personal projects are cause-driven. Recent investments and grants funded by CZI have focused on technological solutions for healthcare, climate change, and education. Some of the companies Zuckerberg has supported include:Apollo Agriculture: a commercial farming platform that small farmers in Africa use to increase their yields and profits.BYJU's: an education technology company based in India.Emeritus: a company that partners with leading universities to deliver educational content to learners around the world.Handshake: a platform that connects employers with college students.Lovevery: maker of award-winning children's play kits to support brain development.Nerdy (NRDY 0.63%): owner of Varsity Tutors, an online tutoring marketplace. Nerdy is the first CZI investment to go public.Twelve: a company that uses carbon emissions to make chemicals and fuel products. Meta's early acquisition strategy involved buying up potential rivals, such as Instagram in 2012 and WhatsApp in 2014. But in recent years, the company has used acquisitions to position itself as a leader in the metaverse.The metaverse is a mashup of virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR). Zuckerberg sees it as the next evolution of the internet, where users can connect, interact, and have immersive virtual experiences. His attachment to the concept drove the company's 2021 name change from Facebook to Meta Platforms.Meta has been building its VR and AR resources since its 2014 acquisition of Oculus VR. More recent purchases include VR game makers Downpour Interactive and BigBox VR, VR/AR optics company ImagineOptix, and CTRL-Labs, makers of a wristband that activates and controls a virtualhand.In 2022, Meta bought three VR game developers: Camouflaj, Twisted Pixel, and Armature Studio. All three were rolled into Meta's Oculus Studio division. As an individual investor, your financial goals probably don