

JENSEN HUANG

1. Jensen Huang, co-founder of Nvidia, has served as its CEO for many years, significantly influencing the AI and GPU revolutions.

Jensen Huang was born in Taipei on February 17, 1963, spending his childhood in Taiwan and Thailand. At the age of nine, he moved to the United States, where he attended a reform school in Kentucky, cleaned toilets, played table tennis, and learned English under challenging conditions. He later relocated to Oregon, graduated from high school at the age of 16, and earned a BS in electrical engineering from Oregon State at 20, followed by an MS from Stanford in 1992.

2. He started his career as a microchip designer at AMD and LSI Logic while pursuing his graduate studies. In 1993, he co-founded Nvidia alongside Chris Malachowsky and Curtis Priem; they selected the name “Nvidia” (from the Latin word for envy) to inspire competitors to feel envious. The trio convened at a Denny’s in San Jose to lay out their plans and incorporated with just \$600 in capital—Huang signed the founding documents personally on April 5, 1993.

From the very beginning, he assumed the roles of president and CEO, holding these positions for over 30 years and becoming one of Silicon Valley’s longest-serving CEOs. At first, he faced considerable challenges, nearly depleting the company’s cash reserves before the launch of the 1997 RIVA 128 chip, which ultimately saved the company from the brink of bankruptcy.

How Jensen Huang led Nvidia’s transformation:

- Moved from gaming GPUs to leadership positions in AI and high-performance computing through CUDA, improving scientific and AI processes. Led the development of architectures like Hopper and Blackwell, solidifying Nvidia’s top position in data center AI acceleration.
- As of May 2025, his estimated net worth is \$117.5 billion, ranking him as the 11th wealthiest individual globally. In June 2024, Nvidia briefly surpassed Microsoft to become the world’s most valuable company, with a market capitalization exceeding \$3 trillion.
- The leadership approach encourages a flat organizational structure, managing approximately 60 direct reports. They hold the view that top performers “need the

least amount of pampering” and do not have a fixed office, preferring to walk around the facility to stay attuned to the company's dynamics. They are recognized for their unwavering discipline, often commencing presentations with, “Our company is thirty days from going out of business,” which highlights Nvidia’s early hurdles. They make it a point to engage with feedback by reviewing the “Top 5 Things” email sent by employees to remain informed and proactive.

- The awards and recognition he received included:
 - IEEE Founders Medal (2020)
 - Edison Award and Vinfuture Prize (2024)
 - Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering (2025)
 - Named in Time 100 (2021, 2024), Harvard’s Best CEO (2019), Econ’s Best CEO (2023), and Fortune’s Top 2 Most Powerful People In Business (2024).

In his June 2025 presentation at VivaTech in Paris, he cautioned that US restrictions on AI chip exports to China could give Huawei a competitive advantage. He also challenged the anthropic CEO’s claim that AI could eliminate a significant portion of entry-level white-collar jobs, emphasizing that AI is poised to transform numerous roles rather than make them obsolete.

On a personal level, he is married to Lori Mills, his lab partner from Stanford, and they have two children, Spencer and Madison, who are currently employed at Nvidia.

3. He is a committed philanthropist who has made substantial donations to Stanford's Jen-Hsun Huang Engineering Center. Additionally, he has supported schools impacted by the 2008 earthquakes in China and has contributed to Oneida in Kentucky, as well as Oregon State University’s supercomputing institute. Recently, the Jen-Hsun and Lori Huang Foundation's assets increased dramatically from around \$828 million to \$9.1 billion. He holds dual citizenship in both the US and Taiwan, speaks fluent Taiwanese Hokkien, and maintains strong connections to Taiwan.

4. Jensen Huang began his journey from humble immigrant origins. After overcoming numerous challenges and working at Denny’s, he elevated Nvidia to a top position in the global technology and AI sector. His visionary leadership, commitment, and willingness to take risks have driven the GPU revolution, blending business acumen with deep technical passion and considerable cultural impact.

An In-Depth Look at Jensen Huang



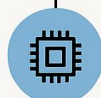
Early Life & Education

- Born on February 17, 1963
- Earned BS in Electrical Engineering from Oregon State



Career Beginnings and Nvidia Founding

- co-founded in 1993
- Spearheaded Nvidia's goal for competitors to "turn green with envy"



Ascension at Nvidia

- President and CEO - since day one
- Spearheaded transformation to AI and HPC dominance



Wealth & Influence

- \$117.5 billion ranking 11th richest person globally



Leadership Style & Philosophy

- Emphasis on "Top-5 things" emails
- Scanning "Top-5 Things" emails from employees



Awards & Recognition

- IEEE Founders Medal (2020)
- TIME 100 (2021, 2024)



Current Views & Public Image

- Active philanthropic efforts, active in Taiwanese
- Active and active philanthropic

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