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American multinational technology companyNot to be confused with Sysco, Sisq, Costco, or Cosco.For other uses, see Cisco (disambiguation).Cisco Systems, Inc.Building 10 of the Cisco San Jose Main CampusCompany typePublicTraded asNasdaq:CSCONasdaq-100 componentDJIA componentS&P 100 componentS&P 500 componentISINUS17275R1023IndustryNetworking hardwareNetworking softwareFoundedDecember10, 1984; 40 years ago(1984-12-10) in San Francisco, California, U.S.FoundersLeonard BosackSandy LernerHeadquartersSan Jose, California, U.S.[1]Area servedWorldwideKey peopleChuck Robbins[2](CEO & chairman)ProductsList of Cisco productsRevenue US$53.80 billion (2024)Operating income US$12.18 billion (2024)Net income US$10.32 billion (2024)Total assets US$124.4 billion (2024)Total equity US$45.46 billion (2024)Number of employees90,400 (2024)Websitecisco.comFootnotes/ referencesFinancials as of July27, 2024[update].[3]This article contains promotional content. Please help improve it by removing promotional language and inappropriate external links, and by adding encyclopedic text written from a neutral point of view. (June 2025) (Learn how and when to remove this message)Cisco Systems, Inc. (using the trademark Cisco) is an American multinational digital communications technology conglomerate corporation headquartered in San Jose, California. Cisco develops, manufactures, and sells networking hardware, software, telecommunications equipment and other high-technology services and products.[4] Cisco specializes in specific tech markets, such as the Internet of things (IoT), domain security, videoconferencing, and energy management with products including Webex, OpenDNS, Jabber, Duo Security, Silicon One, and Jasper.Cisco Systems was founded in December 1984 by Leonard Bosack and Sandy Lerner, two Stanford University computer scientists who had been instrumental in connecting computers at Stanford. They pioneered the concept of a local area network (LAN) being used to connect distant computers over a multiprotocol router system. The company went public in 1990 and, by the end of the dot-com bubble in 2000, had a market capitalization of $500 billion, surpassing Microsoft as the world's most valuable company.[5][6]Cisco stock (CSCO), trading on Nasdaq since 1990, was added to the Dow Jones Industrial Average on June 8, 2009, and is also included in the S&P 500, Nasdaq-100, the Russell 1000, and the Russell 1000 Growth Stock indices.[7][8]Cisco's first router, the Advanced Gateway Server (AGS) router (1986)Cisco Systems was founded in December 1984 by Sandy Lerner along with her husband Leonard Bosack. Lerner was the director of computer facilities for the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. Bosack was in charge of the Stanford University computer science department's computers.[9]Cisco's initial product has roots in Stanford University's campus technology. In the early 1980s students and staff at Stanford, including Bosack, used technology on the campus to link all of the school's computer systems to talk to one another, creating a box that functioned as a multiprotocol router called the "Blue Box".[10] The Blue Box used circuitry made by Andy Bechtolsheim, and software that was originally written at Stanford by research engineer William Yeager.[10] Due to the underlying architecture, and its ability to scale well, Yeager's well-designed invention became a key to Cisco's early success.[11]In 1985, Bosack and Stanford employee Kirk Lougheed began a project to formally network Stanford's campus.[10] They adapted Yeager's software into what became the foundation for Cisco IOS, despite Yeager's claims that he had been denied permission to sell the Blue Box commercially. On July 11, 1986, Bosack and Lougheed were forced to resign from Stanford and the university contemplated filing criminal complaints against Cisco and its founders for the theft of its software, hardware designs, and other intellectual properties.[10] In 1987, Stanford licensed the router software and two computer boards to Cisco.[10] In addition to Bosack, Lerner, Lougheed, Greg Satz (a programmer), and Richard Troiano (who handled sales), completed the early Cisco team.[10] The company's first CEO was Bill Graves, who held the position from 1987 to 1988.[12] In 1988, John Morgridge was appointed CEO.[13]The name "Cisco" was derived from the city name San Francisco, which is why the company's engineers insisted on using the lower case "cisco" in its early years.[14] The logo is a stylized depiction of the two towers of the Golden Gate Bridge.[15]On February 16, 1990, Cisco Systems went public with a market capitalization of $224million, and was listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange. On August 28, 1990, Lerner was fired. Upon hearing the news, her husband Bosack resigned in protest.[16]Although Cisco was not the first company to develop and sell dedicated network nodes,[17] it was one of the first to sell commercially successful routers supporting multiple network protocols.[18] Classical, CPU-based architecture of early Cisco devices coupled with flexibility of operating system IOS allowed for keeping up with evolving technology needs by means of frequent software upgrades. Some popular models of that time (such as Cisco 2500) managed to stay in production for almost a decade virtually unchanged. The company was quick to capture the emerging service provider environment, entering the SP market with product lines such as Cisco 7000 and Cisco 8500.[19]Between 1992 and 1994, Cisco acquired several companies in Ethernet switching, such as Kalpana,[20] Grand Junction[21] and most notably, Mario Mazzola's Crescendo Communications,[22] which together formed the Catalyst business unit. At the time, the company envisioned layer 3 routing and layer 2 (Ethernet, Token Ring) switching as complementary functions of different intelligence and architecturethe former was slow and complex, the latter was fast but simple. This philosophy dominated the company's product lines throughout the 1990s.[19]In 1995, John Morgridge was succeeded by John T. Chambers.[23]Logo used in the 1990s and early 2000s John T. Chambers in 2010, who was the CEO between 1995 and 2015.[24]The Internet Protocol (IP) became widely adopted in the mid-to-late 1990s.[25] Cisco introduced products ranging from modem access shelves (AS5200) to core GSR routers, making them a major player in the market.[25] In late March 2000, at the height of the dot-com bubble, Cisco became the most valuable company in the world, with a market capitalization of more than $500billion.[5][26] As of July 2014, with a market cap of about US$129billion,[27] it was still one of the most valuable companies.[28]The perceived complexity of programming routing functions in silicon led to the formation of several startups determined to find new ways to process IP and MPLS packets entirely in hardware and blur boundaries between routing and switching. One of them, Juniper Networks, shipped their first product in 1999 and by 2000 chipped away about 30% from Cisco SP Market share. In response, Cisco later developed homegrown ASICs and fast processing cards for GSR routers and Catalyst 6500 switches. In 2004, Cisco also started the migration to new high-end hardware CRS-1 and software architecture IOS XR.[29]Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger at Cisco, 2010[30]As part of a rebranding campaign in 2006, Cisco Systems adopted the shortened name "Cisco" and created "The Human Network" advertising campaign.[31] These efforts were meant to make Cisco a "household" branda strategy designed to support the low-end Linksys products and future consumer products.[19]On the more traditional business side, Cisco continued to develop its routing, switching and security portfolio. The quickly growing importance of Ethernet also influenced the company's product lines. Limits of IOS and aging Crescendo architecture also forced Cisco to look at merchant silicon in the carrier Ethernet segment. This resulted in a new ASR 9000 product family intended to consolidate the company's carrier Ethernet and subscriber management business around EZChip-based hardware and IOS-XR.[19]In March 2007, Cisco acquired Reactivity Inc, a privately held XML gateway provider based in Redwood City, California. Cisco placed the Reactivity team and product portfolio under its Datacenter Switching and Security Technology Group, which reported to the company's then senior vice president Jayshree Ullal.[32]Throughout the mid-2000s, Cisco also built a significant presence in India, establishing its Globalization Centre East in Bangalore for $1billion.[33] Cisco also expanded into new markets by acquisitionone example being a 2009 purchase of mobile specialist Starent Networks.[34]Cisco continued to be challenged by both domestic competitors Alcatel-Lucent, Juniper Networks, and an overseas competitor Huawei. Due to lower-than-expected profit in 2011, Cisco reduced annual expenses by $1 billion. The company cut around 3,000 employees with an early-retirement program who accepted a buyout and planned to eliminate as many as 10,000 jobs (around 14 percent of the 73,400 total employees before curtailment).[35][36] During the 2011 analyst call, Cisco's CEO John Chambers called out several competitors by name,[37] including Juniper and HP.On July 24, 2012, Cisco received approval from the EU to acquire NDS (a TV software developer) for US$5 billion.[38] In 2013, Cisco sold its Linksys home-router unit to Belkin International Inc., signaling a shift to sales to businesses rather than consumers.[39]Former Portuguese President Cavaco Silva, former Cisco CEO John Chambers and Cisco Senior Director of Innovation Helder Antunes, during the 2011 presidential visit to the USOn July 23, 2013, Cisco Systems announced a definitive agreement to acquire Sourcefire for $2.7 billion.[40] On August 14, 2013, Cisco Systems announced it would cut 4,000 jobs from its workforce, which was roughly 6%, starting in 2014.[41] At the end of 2013, Cisco announced poor revenue due to depressed sales in emerging markets, caused by economic uncertainty and by fears of the National Security Agency planting backdoors in its products.[42]In April 2014, Cisco announced funding for early-stage firms to focus on the Internet of Things. The investment fund was allocated to investments in IoT accelerators and startups such as The Alchemist Accelerator, Ayla Networks and EVRYTHNG.[43] Later that year, the company announced it was laying off another 6,000 workers or 8% of its global workforce, as part of a second restructuring.[44] On November 4, 2014, Cisco announced an investment in Stratoscale.[45]On May 4, 2015, Cisco announced CEO and Chairman John Chambers would step down as CEO on July 26, 2015, but remain chairman. Chuck Robbins, senior vice president of worldwide sales & operations and 17-year Cisco veteran, was announced as the next CEO.[46] On July 23, 2015, Cisco announced the divestiture of its television set-top-box and cable modem business to Technicolor SA for $600 million,[47] a division originally formed by Cisco's $6.9 billion purchase of Scientific Atlanta. The deal came as part of Cisco's gradual exit from the consumer market, and as part of an effort by Cisco's new leadership to focus on cloud-based products in enterprise segments. Cisco indicated that it would still collaborate with Technicolor on video products.[48] On November 19, 2015, Cisco, alongside ARM Holdings, Dell, Intel, Microsoft and Princeton University, founded the OpenFog Consortium, to promote interests and development in fog computing.[49]In January 2016, Cisco invested in VeloCloud, a software-defined WAN (SD-WAN) start-up with a cloud offering for configuring and optimizing branch office networks. Cisco contributed to VeloCloud's $27 million Series C round, led by March Capital Partners.[50]In February 2017, Cisco launched a cloud-based secure internet gateway, called Cisco Umbrella, to provide safe internet access to users who do not use their corporate networks or VPNs to connect to remote data centers.[51] Immediately after reporting their fourth-quarter earnings for 2017, Cisco's price-per-share value jumped by over 7%, while its earnings per share ratio increased from 60 to 61 cents per share, due in part to Cisco's outperformance of analyst expectations.[52] In September 2017, Chambers announced that he would step down from the executive chairman role at the end of his term on the board in December 2017.[53] On December 11, 2017, Robbins was elected to succeed Chambers as executive chairman while retaining his role as CEO, and Chambers was given the title of "Chairman Emeritus".[54][55]Reuters reported that "Cisco Systems Inc's (CSCO.O) product revenue in Russia grew 20 percent in 2017, ahead of Cisco's technology product revenue growth in the other so-called BRIC countries of Brazil, China and India."[56][57]On May 1, 2018, Cisco Systems agreed to buy AI-driven business intelligence startup Accompany for $270 million.[58][59] As of June 2018, Cisco Systems ranked 444th on Forbes Global 2000 list, with $221.3 billion market cap.[60]In 2019, Cisco acquired CloudCherry, a customer experience management company, and Voicea, an artificial intelligence company.[61][62][63]In 2019, Cisco also introduced the "Silicon One" ASIC chip with the G100 model reaching a speed of 25.6Tbit/s.[64] The Silicon One competes against the Tomahawk series by Broadcom the Nvidia Spectrum, the Marvell Teralynx and the Intel Tofino.[65] In 2023, the Silicon One G200 will offer a speed of 51.2Tbit/sec.[66]Cisco's Senior Vice President Guy Diedrich with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev in Davos, Switzerland in January 2023In March 2020, SVP and GM of Enterprise Networking David Goeckeler left to become CEO of Western Digital. and was replaced by Todd Nightingale, head of Cisco Meraki.[67] In October 2022, Cisco announced a partnership adding the Microsoft Teams app to its meeting devices.[68]In 2022, Cisco completely curtailed sales of its equipment in Russia due to Russian invasion of Ukraine, and completely discontinued service for already-sold devices. In April 2023, it became known that the company had destroyed equipment, spare parts, and even vehicles and office furniture worth 1.86 billion rubles (about $23 million) due to the impossibility of re-exporting.[69] In February 2023, Cisco also wrote off the debt of the Russian mobile operator MTS in the amount of 1.234 billion rubles. As expected, these are unpaid amounts for previous equipment deliveries.[70] In 2023, Cisco announced plans to begin manufacturing equipment in India.[71]On February 15, 2024, Cisco announced it would lay off more than 4,000 employees, or 5% of its global workforce, and lowered its annual revenue forecast due to economic challenges and reduced demand from telecom and cable service providers.[72][73]On March 5, 2024, Cisco Systems announced to secure unconditional EU antitrust approval for its $28 billion bid for cybersecurity firm Splunk.[74]On April 24, 2024, Chuck Robbins, CEO of Cisco, met with Pope Francis and signed the Rome Call for AI ethics at the Vatican, endorsing the document's principles for responsible and ethical AI use.[75]For the fiscal year 2023, Cisco reported earnings of US$12.6 billion, with an annual revenue of US$57 billion, an increase of 10.6% over the previous fiscal cycle. Cisco's shares traded at over $43 per share, and its market capitalization was valued at US$213.2 billion in September 2018.YearRevenue(mil. US$)Net income(mil. US$)Total assets(mil. US$)Price per share(US$)Employees2000[76]2001[76]22,2931,01435,23816.692002[76]18,9151,89337,79511.802003[77]18,8783,57837,10714.382004[77]22,0454,40135,59417.442005[77]24,8015,74133,88314.672006[78]28,4845,58043,31517.4549,9302007[79]34,9227,33353,34023.0761,5602008[80]39,5408,05258,73418.1566,1302009[81]36,1176,13468,12816.1465,5502010[82]40,0407,76781,13018.7470,7002011[83]43,2186,49087,09514.1071,8302012[84]46,0618,04191,75915.3466,6402013[85]48,6079,983101,19119.2075,0492014[86]47,1427,853105,07021.2274,5002015[87]49,3329,541105,85120.9174,9002016[88]48,0779,621108,41120.8175,4002017[89]49,3309,601109,215N/A75,9002018[90]51,8849,983110,848N/A74,2002019[91]51,5579,019111,715N/A74,2002020[92]49,8388,914111,436N/A77,5002021[93]51,5579,019111,715N/A74,2002022[94]51,5579,019111,715N/A74,2002023[95]56,9988,126116,666N/A84,900 Cisco Systems, Inc. is the company's annual exposition and conference for sales and marketing professionals. Cisco Live! Cisco Live Europe Cisco Live Asia Pacific and Japan Cisco Live Latin America Cisco Live Australia Cisco Live Middle East Cisco Live Mexico Cisco Live Canada Cisco Live Brasil Cisco Live Greater China Cisco Live Korea Cisco Live India Cisco Live Malaysia Cisco Live Philippines Cisco Live Thailand Cisco Live Vietnam Cisco Live Indonesia Cisco Live Taiwan Cisco Live Hong Kong Cisco Live Japan Cisco Live Singapore Cisco Live Sydney Cisco Live Melbourne Cisco Live Wellington Cisco Live Auckland Cisco Live Dublin Cisco Live Madrid Cisco Live Barcelona Cisco Live Milan Cisco Live Amsterdam Cisco Live London Cisco Live Paris Cisco Live Berlin Cisco Live Frankfurt Cisco Live Munich Cisco Live Stockholm Cisco Live Helsinki Cisco Live Copenhagen Cisco Live Oslo Cisco Live Zurich Cisco Live Tel Aviv Cisco Live Dubai Cisco Live Abu Dhabi Cisco Live Riyadh Cisco Live Cape Town Cisco Live Johannesburg Cisco Live Lagos Cisco Live Nairobi Cisco Live Casablanca Cisco Live Cairo Cisco Live Moscow Cisco Live Istanbul Cisco Live Prague Cisco Live Budapest Cisco Live Bucharest Cisco Live Sofia Cisco Live Warsaw Cisco Live Vienna Cisco Live Lisbon Cisco Live Athens Cisco Live Zagreb Cisco Live Belgrade Cisco Live Ljubljana Cisco Live Bratislava Cisco Live Riga Cisco Live Vilnius Cisco Live Tallinn Cisco Live Reykjavik Cisco Live Luxembourg Cisco Live Malta Cisco Live Nicosia Cisco Live Tunis Cisco Live Algiers Cisco Live Accra Cisco Live Kampala Cisco Live Dar es Salaam Cisco Live Lusaka Cisco Live Gaborone Cisco Live Windhoek Cisco Live Antananarivo Cisco Live Port Louis Cisco Live Mumbai Cisco Live New Delhi Cisco Live Bengaluru Cisco Live Hyderabad Cisco Live Pune Cisco Live Chennai Cisco Live Kolkata Cisco Live Ahmedabad Cisco Live Colombo Cisco Live Dhaka Cisco Live Kathmandu Cisco Live Karachi Cisco Live Lahore Cisco Live Islamabad Cisco Live Tashkent Cisco Live Almaty Cisco Live Baku Cisco Live Yerevan Cisco Live Tbilisi Cisco Live Beirut Cisco Live Amman Cisco Live Doha Cisco Live Muscat Cisco Live Manama Cisco Live Kuwait City Cisco Live Riyadh Cisco Live Jeddah Cisco Live Abu Dhabi Cisco Live Dubai Cisco Live Sharjah Cisco Live Bangkok Cisco Live Ho Chi Minh City Cisco Live Hanoi Cisco Live Phnom Penh Cisco Live Vientiane Cisco Live Yangon Cisco Live Ulaanbaatar Cisco Live Taipei Cisco Live Kaohsiung Cisco Live Hong Kong Cisco Live Macau Cisco Live Tokyo Cisco Live Osaka Cisco Live Fukuoka Cisco Live Sapporo Cisco Live Nagoya Cisco Live Seoul Cisco Live Busan Cisco Live Daejeon Cisco Live Gwangju Cisco Live Ulsan Cisco Live Jeju Cisco Live Pyeongtaek Cisco Live Changwon Cisco Live Goyang Cisco Live Bucheon Cisco Live Suwon Cisco Live Cheongju Cisco Live Ansan Cisco Live Jeonju Cisco Live Gimhae