

The story of an iconic American brand

Innovation and collaboration. HP has been a pioneering partner of the U.S. government since World War II, helping our country move toward a better future. With a rich history of solving IT challenges and a portfolio of the world's most secure PCs¹ and printers,² HP is the brand American companies and government agencies can rely on.

The birth of American tech



1935

Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard meet while attending Stanford University, graduating with degrees in electrical engineering—their friendship will go on to launch an industry and change the world.

1939

HP is founded in a one-car garage on 367 Addison Avenue in Palo Alto, CA, now an official California Historical Landmark known as the “birthplace of Silicon Valley.” Initially producing a line of electronic test and measurement equipment, they sign their first contract with the Walt Disney Company for audio production on the film *Fantasia*.



HP, ready to serve



1942

Bill, in the Army Reserve, is called into service.

At the same time, Dave sleeps on a cot in his office to manage operations and aid the war effort. HP runs operations round the clock to keep up with war production demands.

1943

HP receives the Army-Navy “E” Award for excellence in war production, starting a long-lasting relationship between HP and federal agencies in meeting IT challenges.

1945

Bill is discharged with the rank of lieutenant colonel.



1947

The Navy gives Dave a commendation for his contributions, which include microwave technology to disrupt enemy radar. This tech will become one of HP's most important business avenues.

The HP Way

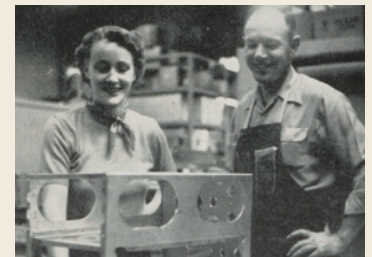


1946

Gladys Anenson becomes HP's first female machinist and department supervisor. Anenson will go on to serve for 35 years at HP.

1953

Edna MacLean becomes HP's first female engineer. MacLean says, “Future opportunities for women in technical fields can only increase.”



1957

Bill and Dave are highly engaged in the day-to-day operations of the company. They grant employees an unprecedented level of freedom, such that scientists are encouraged to explore new ideas. HP is the first company to implement flextime in the United States.

1960s

HP, led by Lew Platt, proactively fosters inclusion, launching successful programs to improve hiring, retention, and advancement of marginalized groups at all levels.



1964

More than 2,600 women work for HP, forming 37% of the company.



Small steps and big leaps



1963

Gordon Cooper uses HP medical instrumentation to record temperature, respiration, pulse, heart rate, and blood pressure on the Faith 7 spacecraft in its 22 orbits around the Earth.

1969

Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin become the first people to walk on the surface of the moon. HP communications and calibration instruments play a key role in both the excursion vessels and ground control.

1968

Dave serves as U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense until 1971. During that time, he donates all profit from company stock, amounting to \$23 million after leaving HP. In 1988, he will receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Reagan—the highest civilian award in the U.S.



At the forefront of the computer age

1966

HP creates the HP 2116A, the company's first computer to manage HP's test and measurement devices.

1972

HP ships their first HP 3000 mini-computer, launching what would become one of the most important and popular products in company history.

1978

The HP 3000 minicomputer becomes the first computer ever installed in the White House.

1980

HP releases the HP 85, the world's first personal computer.

1982

HP releases the 2680, the world's first laser printer.

1984

HP releases the HP 110, the world's first laptop, and the 2686A, the first desktop LaserJet.

A history of impact



1996

The Department of Defense issued the first annual David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Award, still awarded today and named in recognition of Dave Packard's contributions to the department's acquisitions practices.

2016

HP ZBooks are used by astronauts on the International Space Station.

1992

Condoleezza Rice, the first woman to serve as National Security Advisor and the first Black woman to serve as Secretary of State, is also the first woman of color to serve on the HP board of directors.

2015

The company splits into Hewlett Packard Enterprise and HP Inc. Both companies continue to thrive in their respective markets.

2018

HP's ENVY ISS Printer, engineered to perform in zero gravity, now orbits Earth on the International Space Station.



An American legacy meets the future of our country

Explore HP

Today

HP's history is integral to how the company functions today. Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard's commitment to technology and innovation has allowed HP to change the world for the better.

And coming from an accomplished history of collaboration with the U.S. government, HP is proud to produce the world's most secure PCs¹ and printers.²

Discover what HP can do as a partner for your agency to support security, resiliency, flexibility, and any other needs you have.

1. "World's most secure PCs"

Based on HP's unique and comprehensive security capabilities at no additional cost among vendors on HP Elite PCs with Windows and 8th Gen and higher Intel® processors or AMD Ryzen™ 4000; HP ProDesk 600 G6 with Intel® 10th Gen and higher processors.

2. "World's most secure printers"

HP's most advanced embedded security features are available on HP Managed and Enterprise devices with HP FutureSmart firmware 4.5 or above. Claim based on HP review of published features as of February 2023 of competitive in-class printers. Only HP offers a combination of security features to automatically detect, stop, and recover from attacks with a self-healing reboot, in alignment with NIST SP 800-193 guidelines for device cyber resiliency. For a list of compatible products, visit hp.com/go/PrintersThatProtect. For more information, visit hp.com/go/PrinterSecurityClaims.