

Microsoft's key acquisitions

1981: MS-DOS, \$50,000

Microsoft buys **86-DOS** operating system from **Seattle Computer Products**, licenses it to IBM as **MS-DOS**

1987: Powerpoint, \$14m

Presentation programme bought from **Forethought**



1991: Microsoft Mail, \$20.5m

Buys **Network Courier** email system from Canadian-based **Consumers Software**. Microsoft Mail eventually becomes **Exchange Online**

1992: Foxpro, \$174.8m

Clone of Ashton-Tate's dBase relational database eventually rolled into **Microsoft Office Access**

1995: Internet Explorer, \$8m

Microsoft licences **Spyglass Mosaic** and launches it as **Internet Explorer 1.0**



1996: Frontpage, \$133m

HTML website editor bought from **Vermeer Technologies Inc.** Now obsolete

2000: Visio, \$1.38bn

Niche flowchart application developed by **Shapeware**



2003: PlaceWare, \$200m

Web conferencing software renamed **Microsoft Office Live Meeting**

2007: aQuantive, Inc., \$6bn

Digital advertising agency becomes part of Microsoft's newly-created **Advertiser and Publisher Solutions (APS) Group**

2011: Skype, \$8.5bn

Buys video calling developer **Skype Technologies**



2012: Yammer, \$1.2bn

Buys corporate social network

2013: Nokia, \$7.2bn

Microsoft buys Nokia's smartphone business and patents in all-cash deal



1997: Hotmail, \$400m

Web-based email service eventually becomes **Microsoft Passport** and **Outlook.com**

1998: Link Exchange, \$265m

Microsoft buys popular internet advertising cooperative



Sources: Silicon Underground, news reports

© GRAPHIC NEWS