

# A potted history of the PlayStation

Sony launches the *PlayStation 5* this autumn. Together with its four earlier namesakes, it brings to almost 20 the number of game consoles produced by the Japanese tech giant since its 1994 debut model

## PlayStation (PS1)

Lifespan: Dec 1994-Jul 2000

Price: \$299

Units sold: 104.25m

Primarily focused on 3D-modelled games read from CD-ROM discs



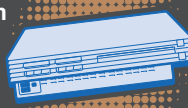
## PlayStation 2 (PS2)

Lifespan: Mar 2000-Oct 2004

Price: \$299

Units sold: 157.68m

Most successful game console ever made. Plays most PS1 games

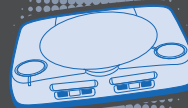


## PSOne

Lifespan: Jul 2000-Mar 2006

Price: \$99

Smaller, cheaper redesign of original PS1, featuring improved graphic user interface



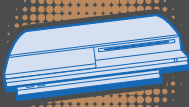
## PlayStation 3 (PS3)

Lifespan: Nov 2006-Sep 2009

Price: \$499

Units sold: 86.90m

First console to support HDMI, 1080p TV displays and Blu-ray Disc media



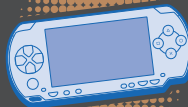
## PlayStation Portable (PSP)

Lifespan: Dec 2004-Aug 2007

Price: \$249

Units sold: 80.82m

Handheld games console, more powerful than rival Nintendo DS

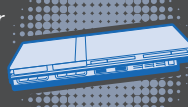


## PlayStation 2 Slimline

Lifespan: Oct 2004-Jan 2013

Price: \$99

Smaller and quieter than original PS2, includes built-in Ethernet port for online gameplay



## PSP Slim and Lite

Lifespan: Aug 2007-Dec 2014

Price: \$169

Redesigned PSP, with brighter display and other minor refinements. Tweaked again 2008



## PlayStation 3 Slim

Lifespan: Sep 2009-Sep 2013

Price: \$299

Slimmer form factor, decreased power consumption and quieter cooling system



## PSP Street

Lifespan: Oct 2011-Dec 2014

Price: \$99

Simplified model with mono speaker, no microphone, no Wi-Fi and no brightness buttons



## PSP Go

Lifespan: Oct 2009-Apr 2011

Price: \$249

Half size of PSP due to mechanism that slides controls behind screen when not being used



## PlayStation Vita

Lifespan: Dec 2011-Feb 2014

Price: \$249

Units sold: 10-15m

Successor to PSP, intended to compete with smartphone games



## PlayStation 3 Super Slim

Lifespan: Sep 2013-May 2017

Price: \$270

2kg lighter than previous PS3, with manual sliding disc cover instead of motorised slot-loader

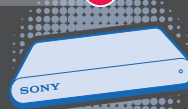


## PlayStation TV

Lifespan: Nov 2013-Feb 2016

Price: \$99

Units sold: Poor  
Non-handheld variant of PS Vita. Connects to TV and uses controller



## PlayStation 4 Slim

Lifespan: Sept 2016-present

Price: \$299

Smaller, quieter, cooler version of PS4, with improved Wi-Fi and Bluetooth support



## PS Vita Slim

Lifespan: Feb 2014-Mar 2019

Price: \$199

Revised edition of PS Vita, lighter and thinner, with better battery life thanks to cheaper screen



## PlayStation 4 (PS4)

Lifespan: Nov 2013-Sept 2016

Price: \$399

Units sold: 110.40m  
Sold 1m units in 24 hours. Can share gameplay images on social media



## PlayStation VR

Lifespan: Oct 2016-present

Price: \$399

Units sold: 5m

Virtual reality headset that requires PS4 to operate



## PlayStation 4 Pro

Lifespan: Nov 2016-present

Price: \$399

Improved hardware enables 4K TV rendering and better PlayStation VR performance



## PlayStation Classic

Lifespan: Dec 2018-present

Price: \$99

Units sold: Poor  
Miniature, nostalgic replica of original PS1, preloaded with 20 games



Sales of all PlayStation consoles, from 1994 to 2020: **560 million units shipped**

Introductory prices shown. These are usually lowered several times during device's lifetime. Models often receive updates that change internal components, but do not alter functionality or exterior design. Illustration features machines categorised as new consoles or relaunched by Sony only. Omits televisions with built-in PlayStation. "Units sold" figure includes all redesigns of same console series

Sources: GameSpot, Guinness World Records, central-manuals.com, Sony, PlayStationLifeStyle

Picture: Naughty Dog/Sony

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