

Patty Stonesifer

Patty Stonesifer joined Microsoft in 1988 after a successful career in computer book publishing. She quickly rose through the ranks from her first role as Sales Director at Microsoft Press to General Manager of Microsoft Canada and later as Vice President of Product Support Services. In 1993, she took on the role of Senior Vice President of the Consumer Division, which became the Interactive Media Division in 1996.

Patty was instrumental in developing Microsoft's interactive media products, including Encarta, MSN, Expedia, and Slate. Her leadership in these areas helped solidify Microsoft's position as a leader in the emerging internet and multimedia industries. After leaving Microsoft in 1997, she became the first CEO of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where she continued her work in philanthropy.