

**Microsoft CEO Summit**  
**Fast Facts and Frequently Asked Questions**  
**May 2017**

**FAST FACTS**

- The Microsoft CEO Summit was established in 1997 in response to growing interest in the convergence of technology and business issues among corporate CEOs. Attendees have an opportunity to hear leading industry experts analyze economic trends and technology issues. The summit also offers a forum in which CEOs can discuss and debate business challenges and share insights and experiences with their peers from around the world.
- This year marks the 21st annual CEO Summit, which has evolved into a world-class forum for business leaders to debate technology and innovation in the face of pressing global business issues.
- Microsoft CEO Summit 2017 will take place in Redmond, Wash., May 16–18.
- More than 140 CEOs and leaders from leading companies and organizations representing more than 35 countries will attend the Microsoft CEO Summit.
- 2017 discussion topics will include the following:

**Trust in Technology**

The debate over trust in information technology has rapidly moved from the back office to the front page, with far-reaching implications. Concerns over encryption; hacking of emails, by foreign governments and others; tensions between governments and international disputes involving the movement of data across borders; and growing regulatory demands relating to privacy protection, are all part of a complex web of issues.

**The Race to Space**

The space missions of the 20th century captured the world's imagination and served as a development crucible for revolutionary new technologies. Today private citizens are investing their own money and harnessing the power of visionary thinking to achieve extraordinary progress in the endeavor to explore and understand space.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: What is the purpose of the Microsoft CEO Summit?**

The Microsoft CEO Summit brings together a distinguished group of more than 140 CEOs and leaders from the world's leading companies and organizations to explore the

emerging trends that are shaping the future of global business. The top objectives of the summit are the following:

- Enable an elite group of top-level executives to explore issues around managing global corporations.
- Drive awareness of new technology megatrends and their impact on business and society.
- Stimulate private and informal interaction among peers as a means of strengthening professional and personal relationships.

**Q: How did the event get started? Who at Microsoft championed its creation?**

In 1997 Bill Gates recognized a need for business leaders to gather and exchange experiences around leading global corporations, and to learn about new technologies that will have an impact on business in the future. Microsoft delivers to participants a unique experience of discussion and interaction among worldwide business leaders set in an intimate business environment.

**Q: What is on the agenda? In what types of activities do the CEOs participate?**

The tone of the event is highly conversational. The agenda features moderated panel discussions and breakout workshops where CEOs have an opportunity to dive into deep discussions on particular issues.

**Q: What have been the subjects of some of the most interesting discussions or debates?**

Some of the more interesting subjects likely to fuel discussion include:

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**For more information, press only:**

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