

Microsoft Names Satya Nadella CEO

Written by Marco Attard
14 February 2014

After a months-long search Microsoft confirms [recent rumours](#) and names enterprise and cloud chief Satya Nadella as 3rd CEO in company history, starting immediately.



"Today is a very humbling day for me," Nadella writes in an internal Microsoft memo. "It is an incredible honor for me to lead and serve this great company of ours."

The appointment allows Steve Ballmer to retire earlier than the previously announced August 2014 date. A 20-year Microsoft veteran, Nadella was in charge of the server and tools business, a division renamed as enterprise and cloud following the most recent Microsoft executive reshuffle. He also has experience in online services research and development, and was business division VP.

While not a household name, Nadella is known inside Microsoft as a charismatic leader, if one more focused on enterprise, rather than consumer, business.

"During this time of transformation, there is no better person to lead Microsoft than Satya Nadella," Bill Gates says. "Satya is a proven leader with hard-core engineering skills, business vision and the ability to bring people together."⁷

Speaking of Bill Gates, the Microsoft founder steps down as chairman, a post he occupied since 1981. He assumes a new role as "technology advisor," and should be devoting more time at the company to, as a press release puts it, "shap[e] technology and product direction." Replacing Gates as chairman is lead independent director John Thompson.

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A member of the Microsoft board since 2012, Thompson is longtime IBM and Symantec exec known to ask tough questions to top execs, and according to Bloomberg even helped speed Ballmer's decision to retirement.

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