

Timeline: Key moments in HP's past

The Associated Press

Here's a timeline of some key events in Hewlett-Packard Co.'s recent history. The company announced Thursday that it will end its tablet computer and smartphone products and may sell or spin off its PC division, pulling out of its consumer-facing business.

- Sept. 3, 2001: HP announces it is buying fellow computer maker Compaq Computer in a deal that would create a formidable rival to IBM.
- May 3, 2002: HP and Compaq combine businesses following a contentious road to the acquisition, which was opposed by former director Walter Hewlett, the son of HP co-founder William Hewlett. The final acquisition price was \$19 billion. HP added the letter Q to its ticker symbol to create "HPQ."
- Feb. 9, 2005: CEO Carly Fiorina steps down amid upheaval about the company's performance following her contested decision to buy Compaq.
- March 29, 2005: Mark Hurd named as new CEO. Starts job in April.
- May 1: IBM sells its personal computer division to Chinese computer maker Lenovo Group for \$1.75 billion. IBM now focuses on consulting and software, outsourcing much of its manufacturing.
- July 19: HP announces plans to cut 14,500 jobs, Hurd's first big act as CEO.
- Sept. 22, 2006: HP Chairwoman Patricia Dunn is forced from the board over a disastrous investigation into boardroom leaks to the media that included spying on reporters' and directors' phone records.
- Aug. 26, 2008: HP buys Electronic Data Systems, which sells technology services, for \$13.9 billion.
- Nov. 11, 2009: HP agrees to buy networking software and equipment maker 3Com Corp. in a \$2.7 billion deal.
- April 28, 2010: HP agrees to buy struggling smartphone maker Palm Inc. for nearly \$1 billion in cash. It says Palm's webOS operating system will help boost its participation in the mobile market.
- Aug. 6: Hurd resigns as CEO after investigation into a sexual harassment claim finds expense reports that were allegedly falsified to conceal a relationship with an HP marketing contractor.
- Sept. 30: HP names Leo Apotheker CEO. Apotheker was the chief of German

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business software maker SAP AG, which did not renew his contract after financial performance faltered. HP names Ray Lane, another CEO candidate, non-executive chairman. Lane is a partner at Kleiner, Perkins Caufield & Byers, a renowned venture capital firm.

— Dec. 20: The Securities and Exchange Commission launches investigation into the circumstances of Hurd's forced resignation, which triggered a \$9 billion drop in HP's market value. The Wall Street Journal reports the SEC is looking into Hurd's expense reports and his accuser's claim that he told her about the EDS acquisition in advance, among other things.

— Jan. 14, 2011: HP says in a filing in a federal court in San Jose, Calif., that it will investigate the circumstances of Hurd's departure and his severance package, in response to a shareholder's demands.

— Jan. 20: HP shakes up board, replacing four of its members.

— May 3: Leaked memo from Apotheker shows the CEO warning of "another tough quarter" for the company, sending HP's shares sharply lower. The memo says management needs to "watch every penny and minimize all hiring."

— Aug. 18: HP announces it will discontinue its tablet computer and smartphone products and may sell or spin off its PC division.

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