



John McAfee

John McAfee (born September 18, 1945) is a British-American tech pioneer, programmer and businessman who is best known for his invention of the software McAfee Associates, which produces a range of software. His father was serving as a soldier in World War II when he met his mother. At the time, he was stationed in the UK before they moved to Salem, Virginia after World War II ^[1].

McAfee became known all over the world as an expert on internet surveillance and specialised in global hacking scandals, threats, and personal privacy online.

The company was purchased by Intel in 2011 and spun back out in 2017. After leaving McAfee Associates, he founded the companies QuorumEx and Future Tense Central and Tribal Voice (makers of the PowWow chat program), among others.

After leaving McAfee Associates, he became one of the best-known bitcoin supporters in 2018.

He also got involved in leadership positions in the companies Everykey, MGT Capital Investments and Luxcore. He returned to the United States in 2013 after living in Belize for many years.

His interests include natural health (QuorumEX was an attempt by McAfee to invent a product that used natural plants to combat illness), cryptocurrency and yoga. ^[2] His most notorious interests include guns and women. ^[3]

Early Life

McAfee had a difficult childhood. His father was an alcoholic, and eventually killed himself when McAfee was 15 ^[2].

In 1967, he attended Roanoke College, and received a bachelor's degree in mathematics. He was subsequently awarded an honorary Sc.D. degree in 2008.

He started drinking and taking drugs in college, and started a business in which he sold magazines door-to-door, which he said made him a lot of money ^[2].

Career

In the late 60s, McAfee worked for a company that created punch-code systems. This is where he first learned the basics of computing. After that, he started work at Missouri Pacific Railroad, where he helped to calibrate train schedules. While there, he experimented with LSD and DMT ^[4].

Then in 1968, he worked as a programmer at NASA's Institute for Space Studies in New York City. In the 1970s, McAfee moved to Silicon Valley, and held a number of jobs at different tech companies. Drinking and drugs continued to be a problem up until the 1980s, when he finally sought help ^[4].

McAfee

McAfee worked at Lockheed but in 1986, the first computer virus hit PCs. Shortly after that, he decided to create his own computer programs to combat the viruses.

After that, his company McAfee Associates quickly became one of the biggest tech companies in the world and made over \$5 million. However, it became even more popular after a virus called Michaelangelo infected thousands of computer viruses in 1992. McAfee resigned from his company in 1994 and made \$100 million from selling his shares ^[2].

In 1997, Network Associates was formed as a merger of McAfee Associates and Network General.

It was known as Network Associates before it was renamed as McAfee. Then in 2010, it was brought by Intel. McAfee products were rebranded as Intel Security in 2014 ^{[5][6]}.

This prompted McAfee to exclaim: "I am now everlastingly grateful to Intel for freeing me from this terrible association with the worst software on the planet." ^[7]

Cryptocurrency

Each unit of bitcoin will be worth \$1 million by the end of 2020, according to McAfee. In July 2017, he first claimed the coin would be worth \$500,000, but that has now doubled.

In fact, he claimed that it was 'mathematically impossible' that one bitcoin will be less than \$1 million by the end of 2020. ^[8]

So far, his prediction has not been realized with bitcoin losing 80% of its value and the price of a single unit dropped to just over \$3,800 in December.

That price drop came after a bear market in 2017 when the price of bitcoin increased from \$1000 to \$20,000.

In 2019, John McAfee launched a new crypto trading platform called Magic. The platform can reportedly "trade cryptocurrencies on multiple exchanges within a single dashboard, automatically and manually."

No digital assets are held for its users as the custody services are provided by the eight cryptocurrency exchanges currently accessible via the platform.

Its features include the "set and forget" which allows buy and sell orders to be placed concurrently. It also has the ability to make auto trades for the users. ^[9]

In 2017, rumours started to circulate that McAfee was offering to promote new cryptocurrencies for a fee of 25 bitcoins and 15%. ^[10]

Controversy

McAfee was arrested by the Belize police department in 2012 on weapons and drug charges. ^{[11][12][13]} He was later released without charge. ^[14]

However, that was not the end of his troubles. Later that same year, the police department initiated a search for McAfee as a 'person of interest' following the death of his next door neighbour Gregory Viant Faull, an American expatriate. ^[15]

McAfee subsequently went on the run and fled the country after refusing to answer any questions ^[16]. He later stated in an interview with Wired that he was afraid the police in Belize would kill him. ^[17]

This led to Dean Barrow, the then prime minister of Belize calling McAfee 'paranoid and 'bonkers'. ^[18]

Shortly after McAfee escaped to Guatemala where he partnered with American cartoonist and animator, Chad Essley, so that he could document his life on the run. ^[19]

He was then arrested for illegally entering Guatemala and deported from the country. This was shortly after he did an interview with Vice which accidentally gave away his location. ^{[2][20]}

During his detention in which authorities were waiting to deport him to Belize, McAfee faked two heart attacks and he was subsequently hospitalized. He later admitted to doing this to buy time for his attorney to file a series of appeals that ultimately prevented his deportation. As a result, he was deported to the United States instead. ^{[21][22][23]}

In 2013, he uploaded a bizarre satirical video where he was surrounded by scantily clad women as he filmed himself supposedly uninstalling the McAfee anti-virus, a software which he had previously denounced. It also showed guns and the suggested use of drugs. ^[2]

McAfee was then arrested in 2015 in the United States accused of driving under the influence and possession of a firearm while intoxicated. ^[24]

In 2014, McAfee lost a court case in which he tried to have the wrongful death lawsuit against him which was filed by the family of Gregory Viant Faull, dismissed. ^{[25][26]}

In 2018, McAfee announced plans to run for the 2020 Presidential Election where he would seek the nomination of the Libertarian party or form his own party. ^{[27][28]}

He advocated non-interventionism, legalisation of drugs, the abolition of the Transport Security Authority (TSA) and a free market economy. ^[29]

He then announced in 2019 that he was on the run from US authorities and was living internationally on a boat after a Grand Jury indicted him, his wife and four of his 2020 Presidential campaign workers on tax-related charges. The charges have so far not been independently confirmed or denied by the IRS. ^[30]

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