

The Youngsters Behind YouTube” (by Evan Carmichael), which tells the story of YouTube’s founding by Steve Chen and Chad Hurley:

### 📌 Overview & Founders

Steve Chen, a Taiwanese immigrant born in August 1978, moved to the U.S. as a child. He attended Illinois Math & Science Academy, studied computer science at UI Urbana–Champaign, and worked at PayPal part-time.

Chad Hurley, born 1977 in Pennsylvania, studied fine arts at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and joined PayPal, designing their logo.

### 📌 The Big Idea

Working together at PayPal, they became fast friends. When eBay acquired PayPal in 2002–03, they received large bonuses, which they invested in launching a new venture.

In January 2005, after struggling to share large video files from a friend’s party, they conceptualized a platform to easily upload and share video online—thus, YouTube was born.

### 📌 Keys to Success

1. User-oriented: Designed to be intuitive for everyday uploading and viewing.
2. Unique content: A centralized place for finding rare, diverse, or niche videos.
3. Viral by nature: Features like embeddability helped content spread rapidly.
4. Well-timed: Launched when bandwidth, video tech, and social sharing were taking off.
5. Focused mission: Prioritized community and user experience over aggressive monetization.

### 📌 Milestones & Legacy

YouTube quickly dominated nearly half the online video market.

In late 2006, it was acquired by Google for US \$1.65 billion.