



Class of 1996
Founder of YouTube
Founder and President of AVOS

Steve Chen was born in Taiwan and moved with his family to the United States in 1986 and Prospect Hts. in 1989, attended Hersey during his freshman year, and participated in Tennis, Science Olympiad, and Band. Steve returned to Hersey to graduate in 1996 after spending 2 years at the Illinois Math and Science Academy. After graduating, Steve attended the University of Illinois to major in computer science.

In 1999, during his senior year, Steve was presented with an opportunity that would change his life. He left U of I and headed to San Francisco to join a start-up company, PayPal, as a software engineer. Working with some of the brightest young minds in the industry, Steve was a major contributor to the development of PayPal, and stayed on with the company until it was acquired by eBay.

After leaving PayPal, Steve teamed with a colleague to form another start-up company in 2005. Pursuing an idea developed at a dinner party, and maxing out his credit card to purchase equipment, Steve and his colleague went to work in a garage to develop a method to share pictures and video on the internet. Thus was the start of YouTube, which has become a mainstream part of American Society. In 2006, Steve and his partner sold YouTube to Google.

Steve and his colleague now run AVOS and develop technology platforms that allow developers to create apps faster than ever. These platforms power mobile and web applications such as MixBit, Delicious, and Wanpai. With headquarters in California, the company also has international offices in China and New Zealand.

Steve married his wife, Jamie, in 2009. They have two children and are active supporters of the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco. In addition, Steve is very involved in helping students pursue their passion through his generous donations to educational foundations.