



June
2025
Issue

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On my business card, I am a corporate president.
In my mind, I am a game developer.
But in my heart, I am a gamer.

- Satoru Iwata (1959 - 2015)
President of Nintendo

All About Nintendo

Nintendo is one of the biggest names in **gaming**! Their most popular series include Super Mario, The Legend of Zelda, Pokemon, Donkey Kong, Super Smash Brothers, Kirby, Animal Crossing, and Splatoon. Their most famous **consoles** include the NES (*Famicom*), the Gameboy, the Nintendo 64, the Gamecube, the DS, the Wii, the Switch, and now; the Switch 2! How many of these do you know?

Nintendo has been making video games for **more** than 50 years, but actually, the company started in 1889! It **began** as a playing card company selling *Hanafuda* cards. The company is **originally** from Kyoto, and their **headquarters** is **still** there today. Their first big video game was the Donkey Kong **arcade** game in 1981. You played as Jumpman- an **early** Mario.



You may know Nintendo because of their stores- like in Shibuya Parco. They also **opened** the Nintendo **Museum** in Kyoto last year. You can see the company's history and **interact** with **exhibits**. Or maybe you've visited Super Nintendo World at a Universal theme park! You can go **inside** the worlds of Mario and Donkey Kong to meet your favourite characters, **experience** great rides, and play fun mini games. The newest ride goes through the **jungle** & mines of Donkey Kong. It uses special **engineering** with two tracks to make it look like you're jumping over big holes in the track! I hope the next area is either Legend of Zelda or Animal Crossing themed!



Like I said above, the Switch 2 is the **newest** console- releasing June 5th 2025. Though, it is very popular; I think it will be a long time before I can buy one! There were **presale** lotteries in April and May, and they seem very **difficult** to win!

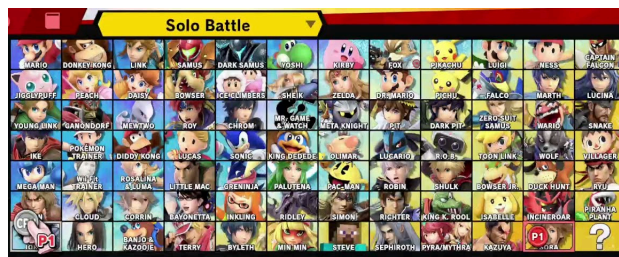
Let me tell you some of the best new **features**. It has more powerful **hardware**- meaning games will run faster & look better. For example, Tears of the Kingdom ran at 30 frames per second on the Switch. This made the game feel **rough**, or **slow** sometimes. On Switch 2 it will run at 60 fps, which will be so much **smoother**!



The new screen is **bigger**, which is great for **handheld** play! There are also new features for playing on the big screen. The new controllers can be used the normal way, or like a computer mouse. There are great **social** features too. Gameshare lets people play a game together, even if only one person in the group owns it! Gamechat makes it easy to chat online while playing with friends.



What about the new games? I'm **excited** for Mario Kart World. It will be an open world game- which means you can drive **anywhere**! You can race with up to 24 people- that's **double** what we can do now! There are also lots of new characters- some of them are kind of **crazy**- how do they drive?! Another big game is Donkey Kong Bananza. You can play fun levels, & break almost everything in them with your strong Gorilla arms!



I hope they make a new Super Smash Brothers! It has Nintendo characters like Mario, Donkey Kong, Pikachu, Link, Kirby, Samus, and more. But there are characters from **other** companies too! Like Pacman, Sonic, Cloud from Final Fantasy, Snake from Metal Gear, Joker from Persona 5, even Steve from Minecraft! It's **lovely** to break down company walls & **invite** so many **beloved** characters! The ones I want in a new game are Crash & Coco Bandicoot.

Console & Handheld Gaming

There are three **main** companies in console gaming- **Nintendo**, **Sony**, and **Microsoft**.

Sony is a Japanese company, so I'm sure you know it. It has home consoles (Playstation 1 - 5), and handheld consoles such as the Playstation Vita. Microsoft is an American company- **maybe** you know them for Microsoft Word or Powerpoint. But do you know about the Xbox, Xbox 360, Xbox One, etc? In America, Playstation and Xbox are equal **competitors**, but in Japan, Playstation is much more popular.

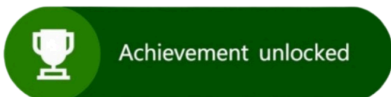


Nintendo makes **family-friendly** games, and is well known for **platformers**. These are games with lots of running and jumping. They were also the first company to use **motion** controls.

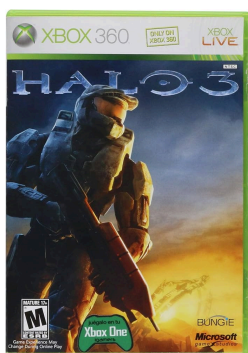
Sony made the first **major** 3D console- the original Playstation. Since they are Japanese, they have lots of anime games. I liked Jojo's Bizarre Adventure: Eyes of Heaven.

Microsoft's Xbox series has lots of **realistic** sport and racing games. Also, they were the first to include '**achievements**'. These are **goals** to help you finish 100% of a game.

Both Playstation and Xbox **aim** more at adults, so there are lots of **shooting** games, or **horror** games.



Let's look at sales. The **best** selling console ever is Sony's Playstation 2- at 160 million **purchases**. Second and Third place are **both** Nintendo. The DS sold 154 million and the Switch has sold 152 million **so far**. Microsoft's best console is the Xbox 360- ninth highest with 84 million sold. Japan sales must be **important!**



My gaming history is a **mix** of all 3 companies. My **first** handheld was a Gameboy Colour that I played Pokemon Yellow on. My first home console was a Playstation 1- my favourite game was Crash Bandicoot. My family stayed with Playstation for the next generation, but moved to the Xbox 360 after. I loved playing **various** Halo games with my brother. **Next**, I moved back to Nintendo with a DS, a Wii, a 3DS, and a Switch. Though, I also bought myself a PS4. I played Persona 5 three times on it!

PC Gaming

PC Gaming is very **popular**. PC stands for **personal computer**. So it means playing games on a computer. Around the world there are about 1.86 **billion** PC Gamers. Why do so many people like it? One reason may be that it's easier to start playing games on PC. Most people already **own** a computer, so you don't need to buy a new **machine** to start playing games. Of course, you may need to **upgrade** your PC if you want to play certain games, but it's a good place to start.



Speaking of upgrades, many people love PCs because you can **customise** them. Some people even **build** their own. You might have seen **custom** computers with crazy **RGB** (special lights)! If you're interested, you can buy a fully finished PC, an **empty** case to fill with custom parts, or anywhere **in-between**. People change their PC to run faster, look cooler, **support** higher level **graphics**, & more. This means PCs can **adapt**. When a console gets old, you buy a new one. When a PC gets old, you can **gradually** buy new parts & upgrade it as time goes by. This can be better value over the long run.

Custom parts let PC games do things you couldn't do on a console. Graphics are usually better **overall** on PC, and you can use mods (fan edits of the game) to make them even better. Look at this **comparison** of Minecraft on console & PC, it's so different! Some other recent games that are known for good graphics on PC are Indiana Jones and the Great Circle, and Ghostwire: Tokyo. PC can also be good for things like **competitive** gaming. They run **smoothly**, even with lots of fast action from **professional** players. Also, a mouse is much more **accurate** than a controller. **Esports** have become very popular- with huge crowds and huge prize money!

