

THE TECH 21

Mississippi's tech scene is on the rise, thanks to flashy successes like Hu Meena's blockbuster deal with Apple to get the iPhone for C Spire and Joel Bomgar, whose Bomgar Box is taking the world by storm. From Starkville to Ocean Springs, and everywhere in between, here are some of Mississippi's leaders in the Tech industry.



Mayo Flynt
President • AT&T
Mississippi • att.com
The son of a longtime Jackson BellSouth executive, Flynt worked in Washington, D.C., before returning to his roots to become the face of AT&T in Mississippi. Building more cell sites in rural counties, preparing for the next generation of ultra high-speed wireless are a part of his top priorities.



Hu Meena
President & CEO • C Spire Wireless • cspire.com
Running point for the nation's largest privately-owned telecom means this native Deltan gets to preach the emerging gospel of "personalized wireless." Meena's announcement this fall of a coveted partnership with the Apple iPhone was a major coup and his voiced opposition of AT&T and T-Mobile's controversial mega-merger has sent ripples throughout the industry.



John Palmer
Board • Momentum Mississippi • momentum-ms.org
A telecom veteran who began working in the industry in the 1960s, Palmer completed the forging of SkyTel Communications in 1989 and sold out to MCI WorldCom a decade later. Palmer was appointed U.S. ambassador to Portugal in 2001, the same year WorldCom sank into a major accounting scandal that bankrupted the company and sent its CEO to federal prison.



Joel Bomgar
Founder & CEO • Bomgar Corporation • bomgar.com
This enterprising computer junkie had barely finished college and kicked off a career in information technology before he grew frustrated with having to travel hundreds of miles to fix a client's computer problems. Combining some necessity with invention, Bomgar conceived and marketed the first Bomgar Box, an enterprise remote support device that can access troubled gadgets from a laptop in Lucedale to a BlackBerry in Berlin.



Chris Cope
Founder & CEO • SlimWare Utilities • slimwareutilities.com
The Biloxi company and its revolutionary CEO are the Dr. Feel Goods of sick or underperforming computers everywhere. Beginning with a Commodore 64, Cope began programming computer games at the age of eight and by his teens was completing computer science courses at UCLA and reverse engineering first-generation Internet search engines.



Gerard Gibert
CEO • Venture Technologies • ventech.com
Leading a "Mississippi 100" private company isn't easy, especially during a recession. Fortunately Gibert's head is always in the clouds. As an entrepreneur and technologist specializing in the business application of cloud computing his head is right where it needs to be. Venture Tech built Mississippi's first data center and still manages one of the largest in the South.



Tom Hinds
President • Business Comm. Inc. • bcianswers.com
Hinds moved to Mississippi in 1989 after being an eyewitness to the Reagan Justice Department's breakup of a monopolistic "Ma Bell" (formerly AT&T). BCI survived the equally historic "dot com bust" of 2000 and today has many IT clients nationwide, ranging from state government to healthcare.



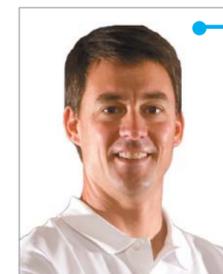
Kelli Booth
President • SciGenesis • scigenesis.com
One-half of the dynamic duo behind SciGenesis, a small women-owned biotech firm in Hattiesburg, Booth is forging ahead with the development of a new camouflage face paint that deflects heat and protects skin from burns. Everyone from deer hunters to the Pentagon have come knocking.



Sage Gerard
Owner • Isolate Development • sagegerard.com
When he's not freelancing as an applications programmer and graphic designer, the 20-year-old college student dabbles in philosophy, mathematics and ponders where he will finish his double major in computer science and engineering. Gerard recently won a NASA aerospace scholarship after designing a theoretical plan to use miniature robotic technology for future unmanned missions to Mars.



Fred Haise
Vice Chairman • The Infinity Center • infinity-sciencecenter.org
The Biloxi native started out his career as a Navy test pilot and NASA astronaut. While his role in the "successful failure" of Apollo 13 has been popularized by Hollywood, Haise has done much more since then, from commanding test flights of the first Space Shuttle to supporting the upcoming Infinity Science Center at the John C. Stennis Space Center outside Bay St. Louis.



Stephen Johnston
CEO • SmartSynch • smartsynch.com
As chief executive for Jackson smart grid developer SmartSynch, Johnston has overseen the launch of multiple metering products that are in demand in the green tech industry. In addition to marketing the best in wireless technology to electric power distributors, he has led the company's efforts to secure over \$120 million in venture capital funding, the largest amount raised by a single entity in the state of Mississippi.

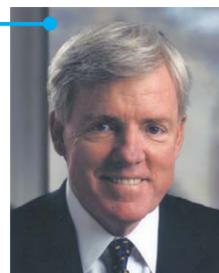
TELECOM
Yes, we can hear you now.

THE BUSINESS
Making technology work for you.

CYBERSPACE
Making the help desk more helpful.

SCIENCE
The right stuff ...

Jim Barksdale
Chairman • Barksdale Management
Executive. Investor. Philanthropist. An IBM sales job after college at Ole Miss turned into decades of managing corporations from FedEx to Netscape. At 68, Barksdale still keeps a packed schedule, creating charitable foundations, mentoring countless entrepreneurs and lobbying for better education and economic development in Mississippi.



Jill Beneke
President & CEO • Pileum Corp. • pileum.com
Beneke founded the Jackson consulting firm in 2001 after years in the financial services industry. The goal of Pileum is to solve business problems by improving practices and technology. Beneke says Pileum tackles "mindware" as it recommends strategies and solutions for its clients ranging from government and manufacturing to healthcare and gaming.

Gary Butler
CEO • Camgian Microsystems • camgian.com
Machine-to-machine, or "M2M", device development is thought to be a great future market with new wireless technologies. Gary Butler at Starkville's Camgian, and its award-winning products, may be able to do for industrial and manufacturing markets what OnStar and the Kindle did for automobiles and publishing.

Nuno Goncalves Ferreira
Owner • NunoErin • nunoerin.com
Winners of a 2009 award from the U.S. Small Business Administration, Portugal-born Ferreira and his wife, Erin, have combined the wonders of science with the aesthetics of furniture and interior design. They have done projects like "lightning benches" for the Mississippi Children's Museum and the "Kinetic Vapor" at the Jackson Convention Complex.



Matthew Graves
Video Producer • Ole Miss • olemiss.edu
The indie film buff knew producing a promo-video for Ole Miss athletics would be a bear. To go the extra mile, he shot the whole spot in 3D, using equipment and techniques that would make "Avatar" director James Cameron jealous. The result was presented to Ole Miss football fans at a game while a simultaneous 2D commercial version aired on ESPN.



David Moore
Founder & President • Navagis • navagis.com
The Mississippi State computer science graduate developed Corpsglobe while working for the Army Corps of Engineers. The program has turned into one of the largest of its kind in the Google Earth Enterprise universe and is a storehouse for geographical data used for emergency response, disaster recovery and homeland security.



David Palmer
Synergetics • synergeticsdcs.com
With an academic background in math and industrial engineering and field experience everywhere from Belgium to Thailand, Palmer is responsible for planning and growth at Synergetics Diversified Computer Services, a Starkville-based company that puts the "people" back in information technology. The company has twice been listed by Inc. 500 as one of the fastest growing companies in the U.S.



Hartley Peavey
Founder & CEO • Peavey Electronics Corporation • peavey.com
It was a 1957 Bo Diddley concert that inspired a young Hartley Peavey to pursue a career in rock music. While he never achieved his dreams of stage superstardom, Peavey's development of guitar amplifiers would turn the music industry on its head. Peavey has since put himself and his hometown of Meridian on the map and his fingerprints can be found on audio architecture all over the world.



Joe Stratinger
Owner • Exposition Ventures
Viking Range, a Greenwood-based global manufacturer of kitchen appliances, saw an impressive jump in its Facebook friends this year. That's due in large part to its partnership with social media consultant Joe Stratinger. The Mississippi native and serial entrepreneur traveled all the way to Facebook's California headquarters to find out how to turn eyeballs into dollars.



Bill Rayburn
Founder & CEO • FNC Inc.
Rayburn worked his way through graduate school selling enterprise telecommunications systems, an experience that later helped the financier in his establishment of FNC as a mortgage technology company and revolutionized the way banks and realtors collect industry data. In addition to his executive responsibilities, Rayburn serves on the board of the Mississippi Technology Alliance.