

IBM CEO Virginia Rometty takes on chairman title

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(AP)—IBM President and CEO Virginia Rometty is taking on the added role of chairman, as Samuel Palmisano prepares to retire at the end of this year.

The <u>technology company</u> said Tuesday that Rometty, 55, will take on the expanded role Oct. 1. Palmisano, 61, will serve as a senior adviser until he retires in December.

Rometty, the company's former <u>sales and marketing</u> chief, became IBM Corp.'s first female CEO in January. Joining the Armonk, N.Y.-based company in 1981 as an engineer, Rometty later was instrumental in the formation of IBM's business services division, including overseeing the \$3.5 billion purchase of PricewaterhouseCoopers' consulting business in 2002.

IBM has sustained a nearly decade-long streak of <u>earnings growth</u> as it shook off the economic jitters that have undercut several other technology companies.

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