

Online TEDTalks hit billion-view milestone

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The number continues to rocket with more than a million TEDTalks watched daily, according to the organization behind the prestigious TED

gatherings that give rise to the presentations made available free on the Internet.

"It's a thrill and, in some ways, a surprise that this has happened," said entrepreneur Chris Anderson, who bought the Technology Entertainment and Design (TED) conference in 2001 and turned it into a nonprofit operation devoted to "ideas worth spreading."

"It is a very hopeful sign for the world that there are so many people interested in serious content," he continued.

TED started in 1984 as a private gathering.

With Anderson as its "curator," TED has become renowned for 18-minute talks devoted to mind-bending perspectives on anything from music or dance to [climate change](#) or futuristic technology.

The nonprofit Sapling Foundation behind the conferences began making recordings of talks available online as podcasts in 2006, then began streaming videos free at a TED.com website the following year to reach a global audience.

"So much of our civic landscape is about people barking without listening; people head butting each other blindly trying to push their world view," Anderson said.

"These talks open the door to a different kind of communication that starts with curiosity and admitting 'Maybe I don't know everything about the world,'" he continued.

"Wonderful things can happen when people broaden their sense of what is possible."

In tribute to passing the billion-view milestone, playlists of favorite TEDTalks from famous "Tedsters" including Microsoft co-founder [Bill Gates](#); U2 singer Bono, and actors Ben Affleck and Glenn Close will be released.

More than 1,400 TEDTalks can be seen online, with topics ranging from saving oceans or exploring far away [galaxies](#) to [global politics](#) or the genesis of inspiration.

Organizers of the prestigious annual conference in California in 2005 launched a global version of the event imbued with an international mindset.

TEDTalks have branched out to venues such as YouTube, iTunes, Netflix, and news website Huffington Post.

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