

Microsoft sets \$40 billion stock buyback, raises dividend

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Microsoft Corp. says its board has approved a dividend increase and a new \$40 billion stock buyback plan.

The Redmond, Washington, company said Tuesday it will pay a <u>quarterly dividend</u> of 39 cents on Dec. 8 to shareholders of record Nov. 17. That's up 3 cents, or 8 percent, from its previous payout.

The technology giant also said it's on track to complete its existing \$40 billion stock buyback plan by year-end. The new plan has no expiration and may be terminated anytime.

Shares of Microsoft are up about 30 percent in the past year. In afterhours trading, the stock rose 67 cents to \$57.48.

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