

Federico Faggin's Biography

Federico Faggin is a physicist born and educated in Italy who co-invented and developed the MOS Silicon Gate Technology at Fairchild Semiconductor and designed the world's first microprocessors at Intel. Faggin also co-founded and led Zilog and Synaptics, two highly successful startup companies. At Zilog Faggin designed the Z80-CPU, a third-generation 8-bit microprocessor still in production today. Synaptics developed in 1994 the touchpads and the touchscreens, now used in nearly all mobile devices. In 2011 Faggin created the non-profit Federico and Elvia Faggin Foundation, dedicated to the science of consciousness. In 2022 Giacomo M. D'Ariano and Faggin published the first theory of consciousness and free will. Faggin received the 2009 National Medal of Technology and Innovation from President Barack Obama and the Cavaliere di Gran Croce title from the Italian President Sergio Mattarella in 2019.