

Graham Weston Chairman, Rackspace



Graham Weston is the chairman, and one of the founders, of Rackspace, the world leader in hosted computing, including cloud computing. Rackspace was founded in San Antonio in 1998. It went public on the New York Stock Exchange in August 2008, just before the financial meltdown. Rackspace stock suffered with the rest of the market, but has quadrupled from its low point and continues strong performance.

Over the past decade, Rackspace has achieved double-digit revenue growth and currently boasts a market capitalization of \$5 billion. Rackspace's 3,000+ employees serve over 100,000 customers of all sizes.

Rackspace manages more than 60,000 servers at data centers in the U.S., Europe, and Asia.

Rackspace has been recognized as a winning workplace and best place to work by several organizations, including Fortune magazine and the Financial Times.

Graham has been a part of Rackspace from the beginning. Born to a ranching family in the San Antonio area, he saw entrepreneurial opportunities in everything around him. He launched his first business venture as a seventh grader, marketing organic pork in newspaper ads that read “Go Hog Wild!” In high school, he built another business that took photos at livestock shows and sold them to contestants.

He attended Texas A&M, where – you guessed it – he launched another business. This one was inspired by his successful appeal of his father's property tax bills, and led him to help other property owners appeal their bills.

Graham went into the real estate business, and led his family to buy and develop the Weston Centre in downtown San Antonio. At the same time, he developed a keen interest in the possibilities of the Internet. In 1998, he and a partner provided the original capital for a business idea pitched by three local Trinity University students. They called it “Rackspace.com.” After six months, Graham joined the enterprise as CEO and remained in that position until 2006, when he became chairman.

While serving as CEO, Graham was named a 2006 “Best Boss” by Fortune Small Business magazine and, and was recognized as regional Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst & Young.

In 2005, Graham was honored by the City of San Antonio for converting one of his vacant properties into a temporary shelter for victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Nicknamed the “Hilton of Shelters,” by the Denver Post, it housed more than 2,500 refugees.

One of Graham's passions is workplace culture, which he emphasizes as a mentor and advisor to numerous entrepreneurs.