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The Video Platform That Changed the World

On February 14, 2005—Valentine’s Day—YouTube was founded by three former PayPal employees: Chad Hurley, Steve Chen, and Jawed Karim. At first, YouTube was not meant to be a video-sharing site. Instead, it was designed as a video-based dating platform, where users could upload videos to introduce themselves and talk about the partner they hoped to meet. However, this idea failed because few people were interested.

To survive, YouTube changed direction and became a platform for sharing user-created videos. In April 2005, Jawed Karim uploaded the first video, Me at the Zoo. Though simple, it marked a turning point. Later that year, a Nike advertisement became the first video to reach one million views, showing the site’s growing influence.

Today, YouTube hosts billions of videos, and users watch over one billion hours of content daily. The platform has helped launch artists such as Ed Sheeran and Doja Cat, and made YouTubers like MrBeast and PewDiePie extremely successful. At the same time, YouTube has become a valuable learning resource through free educational videos.

However, YouTube still faces serious challenges, including harmful content, extreme ideas, and negative comments. To deal with these issues, the platform continues to improve safety tools and video management systems. As we move into the age of AI, YouTube’s future success will depend on how well it adapts to a rapidly changing online world.