

How logos have evolved

One of the best ways to attract and engage customers is with a solid, understandable logo. Logos are the shorthand version of a company's message to customers—a simple way to share the company's values and make an impression.

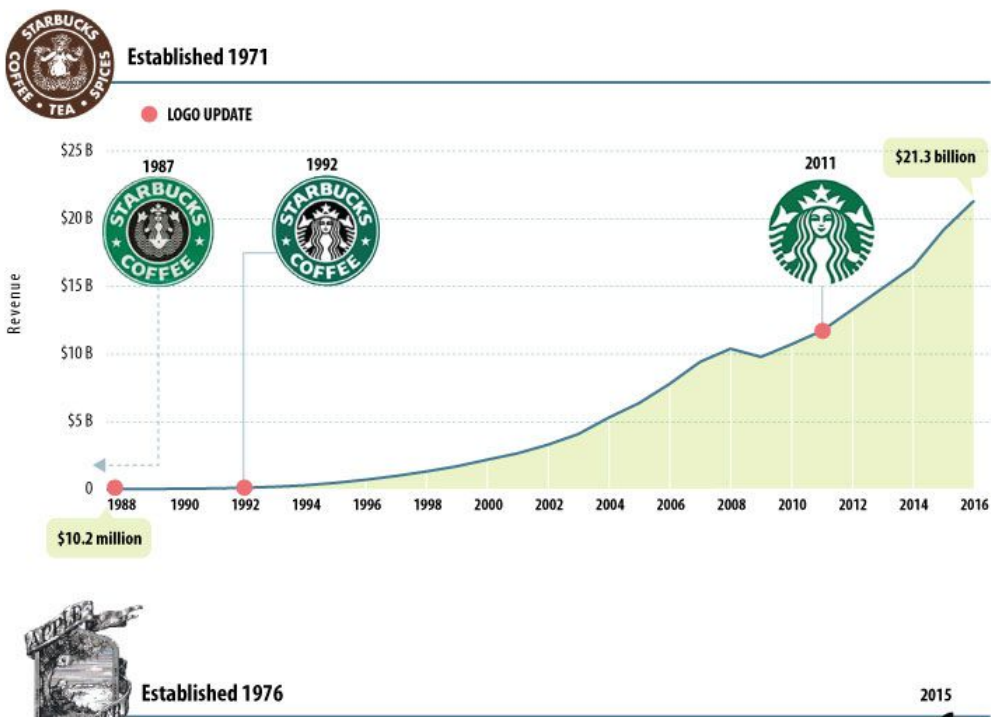


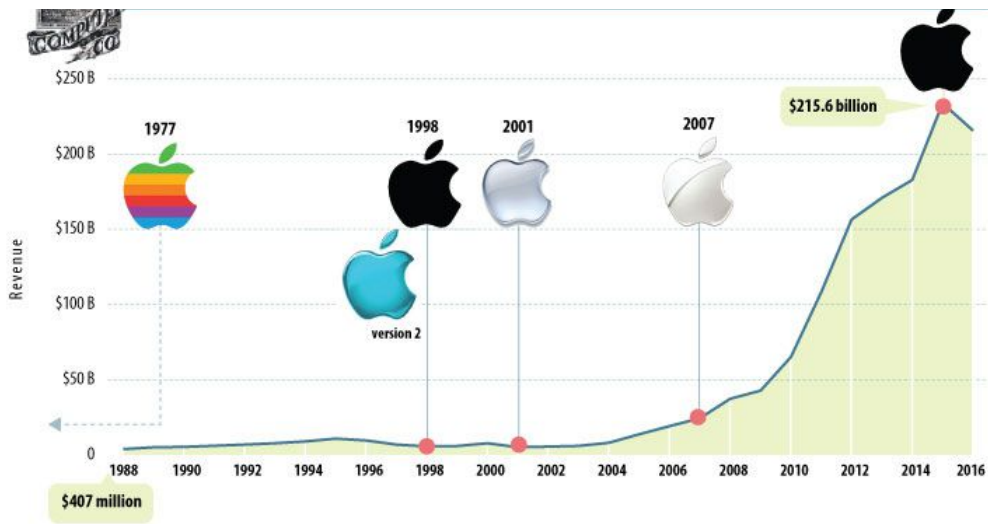
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The big question is, how do you know when you've got it right... and when it's time for an update? To explore this, C+R Research worked with Digital Third Coast and decided to track how logo evolution relates to revenue for some of the most iconic brands in the world. This is what they came up with:

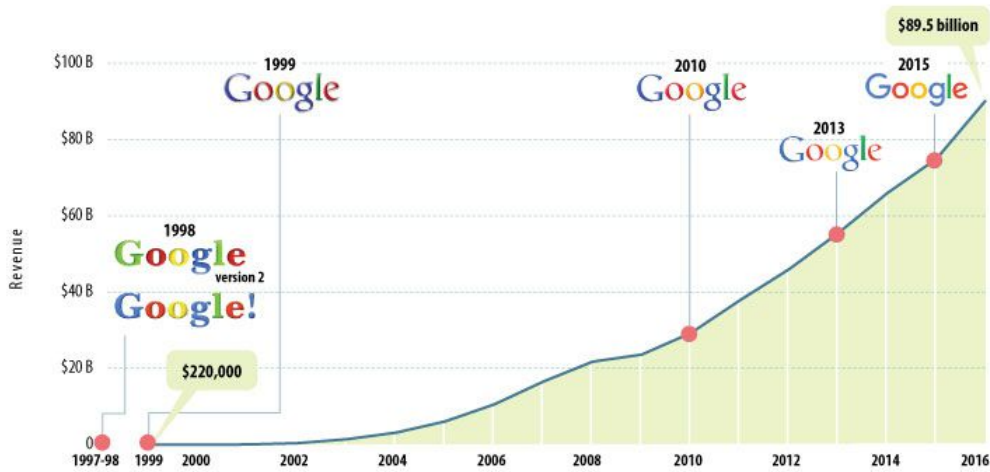
THE EVOLUTION OF LOGOS

We track how logo evolution relates to revenue for the most iconic brands in the world.

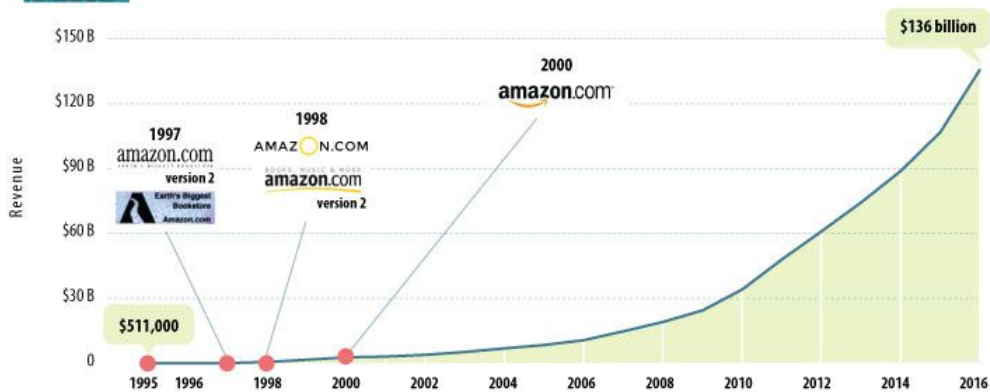




Google Established 1997



Amazon Established 1994



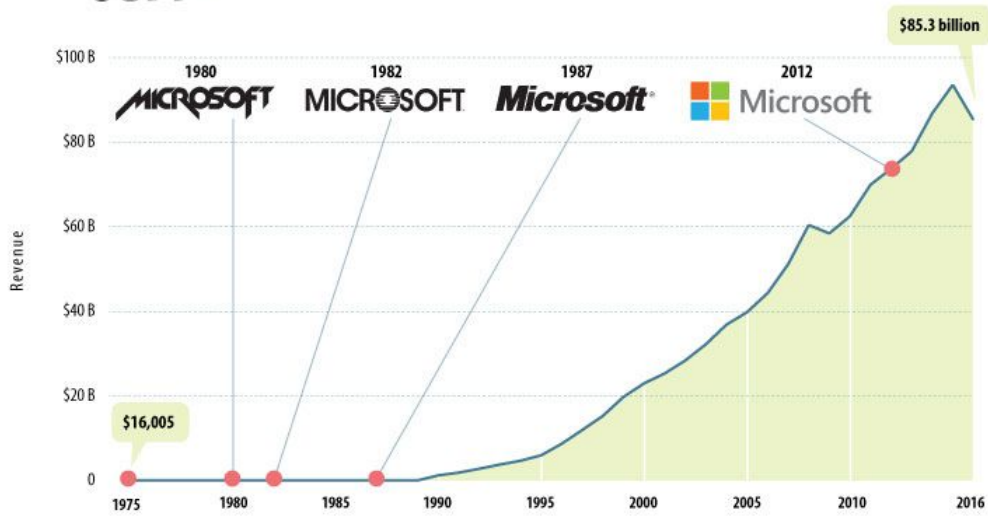
Levi's Established 1853





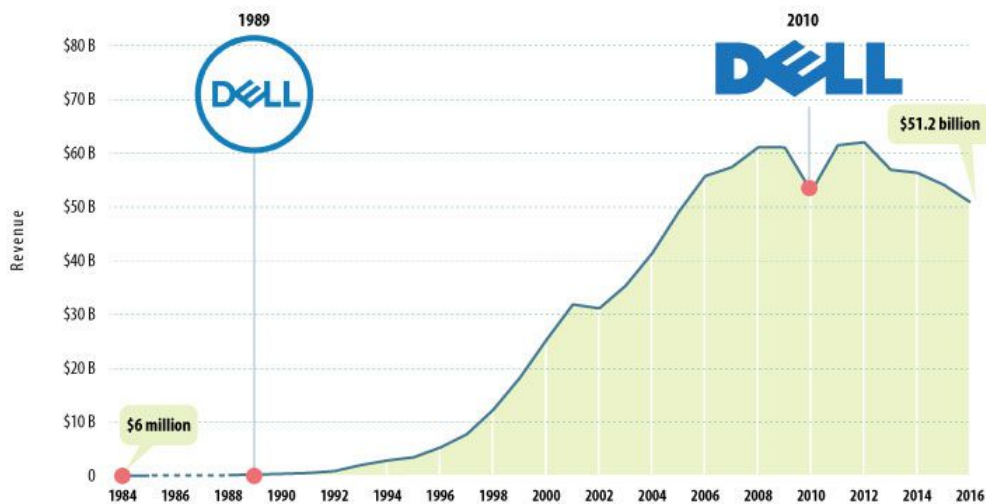
**MICRO
SOFT**

Established 1974



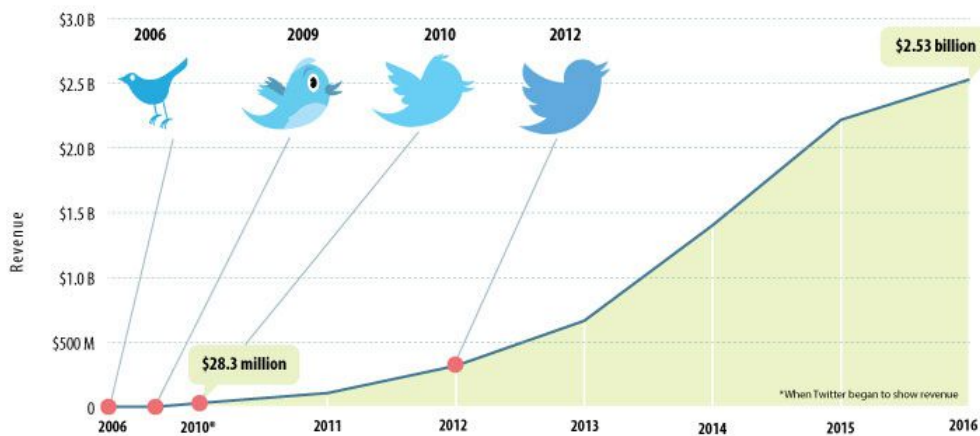
DELL

Established 1984



twitter

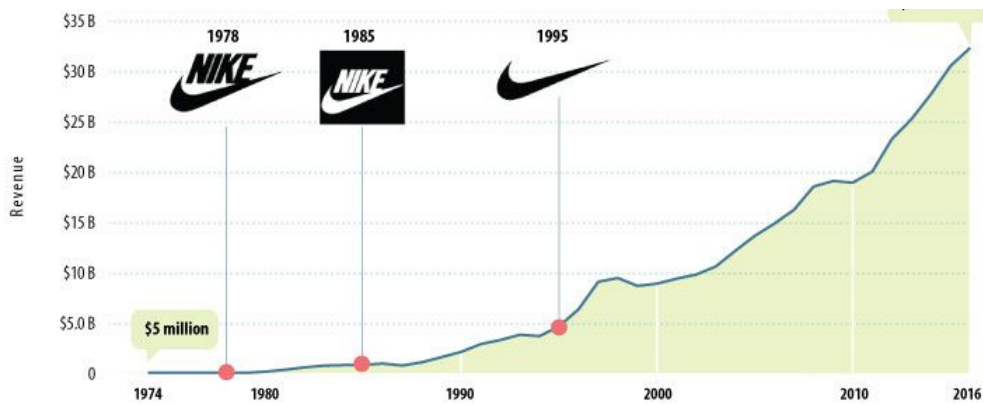
Established 2006



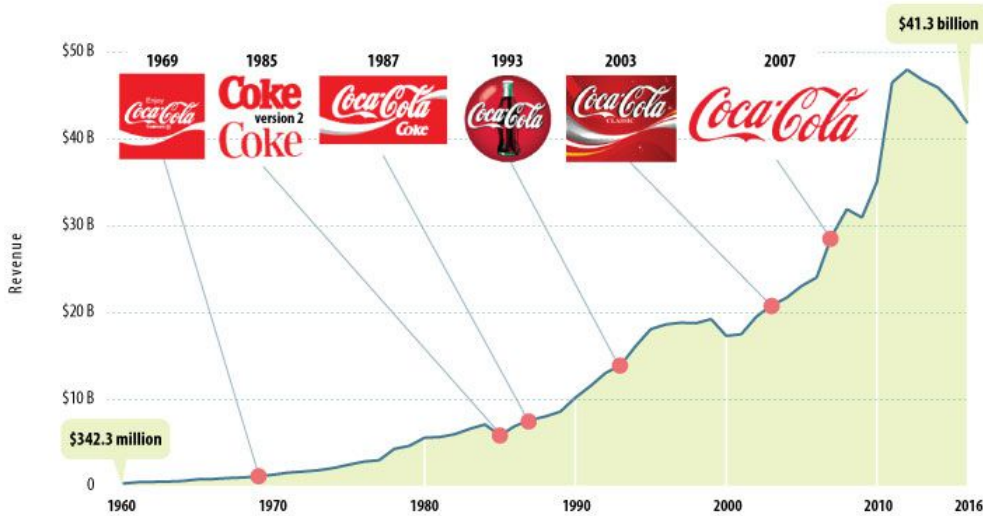
nike

Established 1964

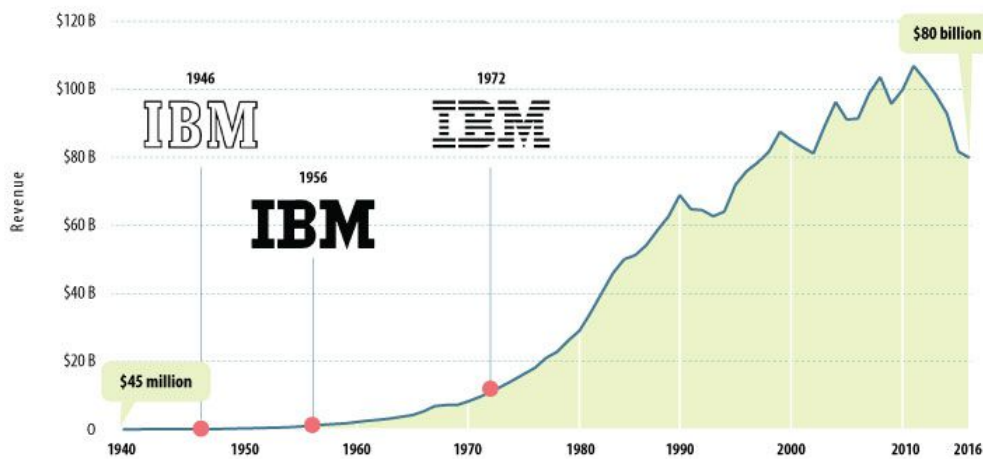
\$32.4 billion



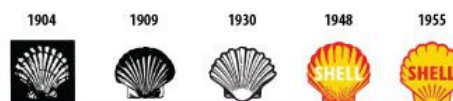
COCA-COLA. Established 1886



Established 1911



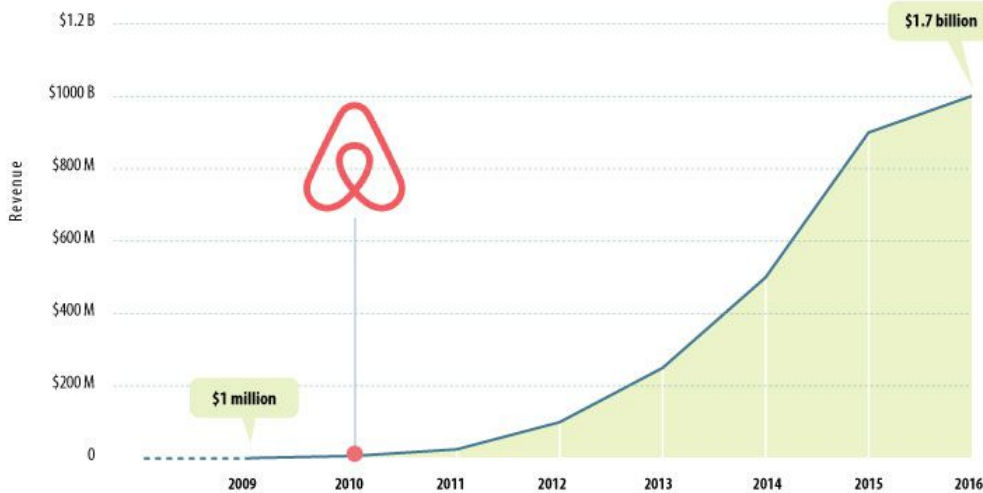
Established 1900





airbnb

Established 2008



NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

BIGGEST REVENUE INCREASE BETWEEN LOGOS: \$73.3 billion

1987 - 2012
Microsoft

LONGEST SPAN BETWEEN CHANGES: 83 years

1936 - present

Levi's

SHORTEST SPAN BETWEEN CHANGES: Less than 1 year

1998
Google!

MOST FREQUENTLY CHANGING: Averages a change every 3 years

1998
amazon.com

LEAST FREQUENTLY CHANGING: Averages a change every 164 years

1936
Levi's

MOST DRAMATIC CHANGE



1976 - 1977



LEAST DRAMATIC CHANGE

Google

1999 - 2010

Google

LOGO STRATEGY TAKEAWAYS

Insight from top marketers on when to change logos, and the risks inherent.

WHEN TO CHANGE:

- Current logo's style is outdated
- Product line is expanding
- Companies are merging
- To reduce negative associations with brand
- Brand has globalized; language is less relevant

MINIMALIST TRENDS

Trends in logo design undoubtedly favor minimalism, for good reason.

- Simple, wordless logos minimize recall time for consumers who have short attention spans
- Relatively flat, wordless logos are more readable on small screens
- Consumers find minimalist logo designs with no text more personal and less corporate

RISKS:

Don't toy with emotions

- If a brand has a significant legacy, and consumers are attached to its logo, a redesign could backfire and hurt sales.
- Seek outside opinions before release. If a redesign isn't vetted thoroughly—by focus groups—it may retain an element(s) that will be mocked or criticized on social media.
- A change is not necessarily an improvement. If there's a close resemblance to any other known designs, the brand may be accused of plagiarism.

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C+R
RESEARCH

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If a company expects to have staying power, they must learn to adapt to public expectations. As tastes change, so must a company's branding, to avoid negative perceptions. Most brands will go through a few iterations before settling on the logo we know and recognize, including big brands such as Google, Nike, and Starbucks. Amazon tinkered with several iterations before 2000, when the online shopping behemoth really took off. Shell Gas, on the other hand, has spent the past 117 years refining and tweaking the same shell graphic, making mild adjustments to avoid looking outdated but keeping the general theme and colouring. Legacy companies like Shell, Coca-Cola, and Levi Strauss know that if consumers are attached to a logo, a redesign could backfire and hurt sales.

The perception of being outdated is like a death sentence in the technology industry. Billion-dollar tech companies, such as IBM, Dell, Google, and Apple, understand that clean, simple logos with no text feel more personal and less corporate to consumers. Also, relatively flat designs are more readable on small screens. Additionally, simple, wordless logos have more appeal to a global audience, as there are no language or translation barriers to contend with.

In 2006, Twitter's original logo was a green, slime-drenched nonsense word with missing vowels, and rather obviously, no

staying power. Within the year, the blue bird silhouette replaced the green ooze and went through a few modifications (including adding vowels to the company name), as the social platform began its enormous rise. Today, with the company worth \$2.53bn, the simple blue bird is one of the most easily recognized logos around the world.

And then there are the very few (and lucky) companies, whose logos have transcended past simple marketing and into the very fabric of American identity. Levi Strauss and Coca-Cola, who have been around since the mid- to late 1800s, know not to mess with perfection. Where Levi has only changed their logo once in its 164-year tenure, Coca-Cola has tinkered and fine-tuned the iconic script font several times but always remains recognizable and relatable to consumers.

A new logo has the potential to breathe new life into a faltering brand, or miss the mark completely and risk losing customer trust in the process. Companies who take the time to thoughtfully consider and design a logo could lead to a billion-dollar pay off.

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