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'Future of Computing' Session

Gareth Williams



Gareth Williams is the CEO and co-founder of Skyscanner, a leading global travel search site, which specialises in providing free online comparison for flights, hotel and car hire. It was Gareth's frustration in finding cheap travel deals that led him to create Skyscanner in 2001 with two friends, Barry Smith and Bonamy Grimes.

Gareth studied Maths and Computer Science at the University of Manchester and, on the first day of his course he met Bonamy. After graduating and working as a programmer, Gareth became frustrated in finding flights to visit his brother in the French Alps. From here came the idea of an easy-to-use way of tracking down the best travel deals.

At a pub brainstorming session, Gareth and Bon met physics graduate, Barry, who liked the idea of searching flight prices for every single airline in the world. As the site began to grow by word of mouth, the three decided to give up their day jobs and Skyscanner was officially launched in 2003.

Skyscanner now receives over 25 million unique visitors per month worldwide across web and mobile and its multi-award winning mobile apps have been downloaded over 30 million times. The company employs over 400 staff from more than 40 different nationalities in its offices in Barcelona, Beijing, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Miami and Singapore.

In his limited spare time, Gareth enjoys playing chess and has a love for literature and the arts, and enjoys sculpting and drawing.