

## Reuters: Three Investors Want Gates Out

Written by Marco Attard  
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According to Reuters 3 of the top 20 Microsoft investors want founder Bill Gates to step down as chairman because his presence "effectively blocks the adoption of new strategies," thus limiting the powers of a new CEO.



Speaking to anonymous sources, Reuters reports the shareholders believe Gates wields "power out of proportion to his declining shareholding," even if he spends most of his time on philanthropic foundations.

Gates is the largest Microsoft shareholder, with a 4.5% stake in the \$277 billion company-- a stake that, thanks to pre-set sales plan created when Microsoft went public in 1986, will drop down to nothing by 2018.

In the meantime Microsoft still looks for a Steve Ballmer replacement, who is [set to retire within 12 months](#). Early rumours pointed out former Nokia CEO Stephen Elop (now Microsoft EVP following the Nokia devices division acquisition) as top candidate, but AllThingsD reports Ford CEO Alan Mulally currently stands atop the CEO candidate list.

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