

Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar

Ivan Chermayeff and Tom Geismar are two of the most influential figures in the world of graphic design and visual branding. Their collaborative work has shaped the visual identities of numerous iconic brands and institutions, leaving a lasting imprint on the field of design. As founders of the renowned design firm Chermayeff & Geismar & Haviv, they have set standards for creativity, innovation, and strategic visual communication. This article explores their backgrounds, design philosophies, major works, and their enduring legacy in the design industry.

Background and Early Careers

Ivan Chermayeff

Ivan Chermayeff was born in 1932 in the United States to Russian and British parents. He studied at Yale University and later at the Yale School of Art, where he developed his foundational skills in graphic design and illustration. Chermayeff's early career included working at various design studios, where he honed his talent for creating bold, memorable imagery. His artistic sensibility combined with his passion for visual storytelling made him a pioneer in logo design and branding.

Tom Geismar

Tom Geismar, born in 1939, is also a Yale graduate with a background in graphic design. Before co-founding Chermayeff & Geismar, he gained experience working in advertising and design agencies. Geismar's approach

emphasized clarity and simplicity, which became hallmarks of their collaborative work. His strategic thinking and keen eye for visual impact complemented Chermayeff's more illustrative style, creating a powerful partnership.

The Formation of Chermayeff & Geismar

In 1957, Chermayeff and Geismar established their partnership, initially focusing on branding, corporate identity, and logo design. Their firm quickly gained recognition for their innovative approach to visual communication. They believed in creating logos and identities that were not only aesthetically appealing but also strategically aligned with clients' brand values.

Design Philosophy and Approach

The duo's design philosophy centered around simplicity, memorability, and versatility. They believed that effective logos should be instantly recognizable and adaptable across various media. Their approach often involved:

1. Using bold shapes and colors
2. Creating visual symbols that convey meaning
3. Ensuring clarity and legibility
4. Balancing creativity with strategic branding goals

Chermayeff and Geismar also emphasized the importance of research and understanding the client's identity and audience before designing. Their work often combined artistic expression with commercial effectiveness.

Iconic Works and Contributions

The firm's portfolio boasts numerous iconic logos and branding campaigns that have become part of American cultural history. Some of their most notable works include:

Major Logos Designed by Chermayeff & Geismar

1. **Mobil Oil Logo** (1960): A bold, red-orange “m” symbol that became synonymous with the brand.
2. **PBS Logo** (1979): An abstract, colorful “P” and “B” that represented the network’s diversity and educational mission.
3. **National Geographic Logo** (1970s): The yellow rectangle symbolizing the magazine’s distinctive cover design.
4. **Chase Bank Logo** (1961): The octagonal blue emblem conveying trust and stability.
5. **NBC Logo** (1956): The famous peacock symbol, one of the earliest and most recognizable brand marks.

Other Noteworthy Projects

- Designing the logos for the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and the New York Yankees. - Creating visual identities for the United States Postal Service and the Smithsonian Institution. - Developing branding campaigns for major corporations, cultural institutions, and government agencies.

Innovative Techniques and Style

Chermayeff and Geismar’s work is characterized by:

1. **Bold Use of Color:** They frequently employed vibrant, contrasting colors to ensure visibility and impact.
2. **Minimalism:** Their designs relied on simple shapes and forms that could be easily recognized and reproduced.
3. **Symbolism:** They believed in creating visual symbols that encapsulate the essence of a brand or institution.
4. **Adaptability:** Their logos were designed to work across various platforms and sizes, from small print to large signage.

Their innovative approach helped redefine what a logo could be—moving away from ornate or overly complex designs toward clear, functional symbols.

Legacy and Influence

The partnership of Chermayeff & Geismar has profoundly impacted the world of graphic design and branding. Their work has influenced generations of designers and branding strategists. Some aspects of their legacy include:

Setting Industry Standards

- Emphasizing the importance of simplicity and memorability.
- Demonstrating how logos can be powerful tools for storytelling and brand identity.

Mentorship and Education

- Both Chermayeff and Geismar have been involved in teaching and mentoring young designers.
- Their firm has trained many professionals who continue to shape the industry.

Continued Innovation

- The firm, now led by their successors, continues to create impactful visual identities, honoring the original principles while embracing new technologies and media.

The Evolution of Chermayeff & Geismar & Haviv

After Chermayeff's passing in 2017, Tom Geismar continued to lead the firm, which was renamed Chermayeff & Geismar & Haviv in honor of the next

generation of designers. The new leadership maintains the innovative spirit established by Chermayeff and Geismar, focusing on contemporary branding challenges.

Conclusion

Ivan Chermayeff and Tom Geismar's collaborative work has left an indelible mark on graphic design and branding. Their ability to create simple, memorable, and meaningful visual identities set new standards in the industry. Their logos and branding campaigns continue to influence designers worldwide, exemplifying the power of strategic, well-crafted visual communication. As icons of modern design history, their legacy endures through the timeless quality of their work and the ongoing success of Chermayeff & Geismar & Haviv.

Further Reading and Resources

- Books: *Designing Logos: The Process of Creating Symbols that Endure* by Chermayeff & Geismar. - Documentaries on graphic design history featuring their work. - The official Chermayeff & Geismar & Haviv website showcasing their latest projects and archives. By understanding the careers and philosophies of Ivan Chermayeff and Tom Geismar, aspiring designers and branding professionals can learn valuable lessons in innovation, simplicity, and strategic thinking—principles that continue to define the best in visual branding today.

Ivan Chermayeff and Tom Geismar are two of the most influential figures in the history of graphic design and visual branding. Their collaborative work has left an indelible mark on the way organizations communicate visually, shaping the landscape of modern logo design, corporate identity, and visual storytelling. Their partnership, spanning several decades, exemplifies innovation, creativity, and a deep understanding of the power of imagery in conveying messages swiftly and effectively. This article explores their careers, design philosophies, notable works, and the enduring legacy they have built together.

Introduction to Ivan Chermayeff and Tom Geismar

Ivan Chermayeff (1932–2017) and Tom Geismar (born 1939) first teamed up in the early 1960s to establish a design firm that would revolutionize corporate branding. Chermayeff, with his artistic background and keen eye for bold visuals, complemented Geismar's strategic thinking and meticulous approach to branding. Their combined talents led to a partnership characterized by innovative approaches and a commitment to clarity and simplicity in design. Their firm, Chermayeff & Geismar & Haviv (later rebranded as Chermayeff & Geismar & Associates), became renowned for creating iconic logos and visual identities for major organizations including NBC, PBS, Mobil, Chase Bank, and the Smithsonian Institution. Their work is distinguished by its clarity, memorability, and ability to encapsulate complex ideas succinctly.

Design Philosophy and Approach

Core Principles

Chermayeff and Geismar's design philosophy centered around several core principles:

- **Simplicity:** They believed in stripping down visuals to their essential elements to ensure immediate recognition and understanding.
- **Memorability:** Creating logos and identities that are easy to recall and stand out in a crowded visual environment.
- **Versatility:** Designing visuals that could work across various media and contexts.
- **Relevance:** Ensuring that each visual element aligns with the organization's mission and values.
- **Timelessness:** Striving for designs that remain relevant beyond fleeting trends.

Creative Process

Their process typically involved:

- Deep research into the client's history,

mission, and industry. - Brainstorming and sketching initial concepts rapidly. - Refining ideas into simple, bold visuals. - Testing designs across different platforms and scales. - Collaborating closely with clients to ensure the visual identity aligns with their strategic goals.

Notable Works and Their Impact

The hallmark of Chermayeff and Geismar's work lies in their ability to craft visual symbols that are instantly recognizable and meaningful.

Iconic Logos

- NBC Peacock Logo: Introduced in 1956, this vibrant peacock symbol became one of the most recognizable TV logos worldwide, embodying color broadcasting and innovation. - Mobil Logo: The red and blue "winged" globe signifies movement and progress, representing energy and dynamism. - PBS Logo: Launched in 1970, the simple, unadorned logo reflects educational values and accessibility. - Chase Bank: The modern, clean geometric logo communicates stability and trustworthiness. - Smithsonian Institution: The stylized torch symbolizes enlightenment and knowledge.

Brand Identity Projects

Beyond logos, Chermayeff and Geismar designed comprehensive brand identities that included signage, print materials, and digital assets, ensuring visual consistency and enhancing organizational recognition.

Legacy of Their Works

Their logos and identities have endured for decades, often outlasting the organizations themselves, which speaks to their timeless design approach. Their work has influenced generations of designers and remains a benchmark for clarity and effectiveness in branding.

Design Features and Techniques

Chermayeff and Geismar's work is characterized by distinct features:

- **Bold Shapes and Lines:** Their designs often utilize simple geometric forms that are easy to reproduce and recognize.
- **Limited Color Palettes:** They favored a minimal use of colors, often choosing high-contrast schemes for maximum visibility.
- **Negative Space Utilization:** Clever use of negative space added depth and meaning to their logos.
- **Scalability:** Their designs work effectively at any size, from tiny icons to large banners.
- **Animation-Friendly:** Many logos are designed with movement in mind, facilitating modern digital adaptations.

Features Summary: | Feature | Description | Benefits | ||| | Simplicity | Minimalistic yet impactful visuals | Easy recognition, versatile application | | Geometric Shapes | Use of circles, squares, and lines | Clear, balanced compositions | | High Contrast Colors | Bold color choices for immediate attention | Ensures visibility and memorability | | Negative Space Usage | Incorporation of empty space to create hidden meanings | Adds sophistication and depth | | Flexibility | Designs adaptable across media and formats | Consistent branding in print and digital media |

Pros and Cons of Chermayeff & Geismar's Design Approach

While their work has been widely celebrated, it's beneficial to analyze their approach critically.

Pros:

- **Timelessness:** Their designs have remained relevant for decades.
- **Clarity:** Their logos effectively communicate the core identity of organizations.
- **Memorability:** Their simple yet striking visuals are easy to recall.
- **Versatility:** Their designs work across various media, from print to digital.
- **Innovation:** They pioneered new approaches to logo design, balancing artistry with strategy.

Cons:

- **Risk of Over-Simplification:** Some critics argue that overly simple logos may lack distinctiveness if not carefully executed.
- **Limited Artistic Flourish:** Their focus on clarity might sometimes sacrifice artistic complexity or emotional nuance.
- **Repetition of Style:** A consistent style might lead to

predictability, potentially lacking uniqueness in certain contexts.

Legacy and Influence

Ivan Chermayeff and Tom Geismar's influence extends beyond their own firm. They helped establish the modern standard for logo design and corporate branding, emphasizing simplicity, relevance, and adaptability. Their work has inspired countless designers and remains a foundational reference in design education. Their emphasis on research-driven design and strategic thinking also elevated the profession, demonstrating that effective visual identities are rooted in understanding organizational goals and audience perception. Furthermore, their firm continues to operate successfully, perpetuating their design ethos through new generations of designers. The firm's projects continue to exemplify how powerful, simple visuals can have a lasting impact.

Conclusion

Ivan Chermayeff and Tom Geismar represent a golden era of graphic design that prioritized clarity, simplicity, and strategic insight. Their iconic logos and branding systems have become cultural touchstones, demonstrating that good design is both meaningful and enduring. Their work exemplifies how visual communication, when executed thoughtfully, can transcend trends and foster lasting recognition. As the design community continues to evolve with digital innovation, the principles championed by Chermayeff and Geismar remain highly relevant, serving as a blueprint for creating memorable, effective, and timeless visual identities. Their legacy is a testament to the power of design to shape perceptions, inspire trust, and leave a lasting impression—an enduring influence that continues to inspire both seasoned professionals and aspiring designers worldwide.

Access to knowledge has always shaped how people think, learn, and grow. What has changed in recent years is not the desire to learn, but the way learning happens. With the option to download **Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar** in

digital format, information is no longer something people wait for. It is something they reach instantly, often at the exact moment curiosity appears.

For many readers, that moment matters. When questions arise and answers are immediately available, learning feels natural rather than forced. Digital books support this process by removing unnecessary obstacles. There is no need to search for physical copies, visit specific locations, or adjust schedules around availability. The learning process begins as soon as interest sparks.

This immediacy has subtly transformed reading habits. Instead of long, infrequent study sessions, people now engage with content in shorter but more consistent intervals. A few pages during a commute, a chapter before sleep, or a quick reference during work hours gradually build a strong understanding over time. Downloading **Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar** supports this flexible rhythm without reducing depth or quality.

Portability plays a major role in this shift. A single device can store hundreds or even thousands of books, making it easier to move between topics and ideas. Readers are no longer limited to one source at a time. They explore freely, compare perspectives, and return to earlier sections whenever needed. This creates a more dynamic and personal learning experience.

The PDF format remains a preferred choice for many readers because of its reliability. Layouts stay consistent across devices, preserving diagrams, images, and structured text. This stability is especially important for educational, technical, or reference materials, where clarity and formatting influence comprehension. With **Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar** presented in PDF form, the reading experience remains predictable and comfortable.

Beyond layout consistency, PDFs offer practical tools that enhance engagement. Keyword search allows readers to locate specific concepts instantly. Highlighting and annotations turn reading into an interactive process. Bookmarks help organize information logically, making it easier to revisit

important sections later. These features transform digital books into active learning tools rather than static documents.

Search functionality deserves special attention. Being able to locate precise information within seconds changes how readers use books. Instead of reading from start to finish, users navigate based on need. This makes downloadable **Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar** especially valuable for reference purposes, research tasks, and problem-solving situations.

Cost accessibility is another reason digital books have become so widespread. Many titles are available for free through public domain initiatives or open-access platforms. Resources that were once limited to certain institutions or regions are now accessible globally. This broader availability supports equal learning opportunities regardless of economic background.

Platforms such as Project Gutenberg, Open Library, and Internet Archive play an essential role in this landscape. They preserve cultural and academic works while making them available legally. Academic platforms like Academia.edu complement these resources by providing research papers, studies, and scholarly discussions that expand understanding beyond a single text.

Choosing trusted sources remains important. Legal platforms ensure content quality, respect copyright regulations, and reduce security risks. Ethical access protects both readers and creators, helping maintain a sustainable digital knowledge ecosystem. Responsible downloading of **Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar** reflects awareness and respect for intellectual work.

In professional environments, digital books serve as reliable companions. Industries evolve quickly, and staying informed requires continuous learning. Having immediate access to relevant materials allows professionals to update skills, verify information, and explore new ideas without interrupting daily workflows.

Students benefit in similar ways. Downloadable materials support independent study, offline access, and efficient revision. Digital books reduce physical strain while offering tools that make studying more organized and effective. Notes, highlights, and bookmarks help students structure their learning according to individual needs.

Different learning styles are naturally supported through digital formats. Some readers prefer linear progression, while others jump between sections or revisit specific ideas. Digital access allows both approaches without limitations. Readers interact with **Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar** in ways that align with personal habits and goals.

Accessibility features further enhance inclusivity. Adjustable text sizes, screen reader compatibility, and text-to-speech options make digital books usable for a wider audience. These features ensure that learning resources remain accessible to individuals with different abilities and preferences.

Environmental considerations also influence digital reading choices. While technology has its own footprint, reducing dependence on printed materials lowers paper usage and transportation demands. Digital distribution offers a more efficient way to share information across borders and communities.

Organization becomes easier with digital libraries. Files can be categorized, backed up, and synced across devices. Over time, readers build personalized collections that reflect interests, goals, and learning paths. Important information remains easy to retrieve whenever needed.

Perhaps the most valuable aspect of downloading **Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar** is how it encourages curiosity. When information is readily available, exploration feels effortless. Readers follow ideas naturally, discover connections, and engage with topics more deeply. Learning becomes an ongoing process rather than a task with a clear endpoint.

Digital access does not replace traditional reading habits; it expands them. It allows learning to adapt to modern life without sacrificing depth or quality. With **Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar** available in digital form, knowledge becomes a companion that evolves alongside changing interests, challenges, and ambitions.

Questions & Answers About ivan chermayeff and tom geismar

N o	Question	Answer
1	Who are Ivan Chermayeff and Tom Geismar?	Ivan Chermayeff and Tom Geismar are renowned American graphic designers and founders of the design firm Chermayeff & Geismar & Haviv, known for creating iconic logos and visual identities.
2	What are some of the most famous logos designed by Chermayeff and Geismar?	They designed famous logos such as NBC's peacock, PBS, National Geographic, Chase Bank, and Mobil, among others.
3	When did Ivan Chermayeff and Tom Geismar start their design partnership?	They began their collaboration in the 1950s, founding their design firm in 1957, which has since become one of the most influential in the branding industry.
4	What is the significance of Chermayeff and Geismar's design style?	Their style is characterized by bold, simple, and memorable visual symbols that effectively communicate brand identities and have a lasting cultural impact.
5	Have Ivan Chermayeff and Tom Geismar received any awards for their work?	Yes, both designers have received numerous awards, including the AIGA Gold Medal, and their work has been exhibited internationally, recognizing their contributions to graphic design.

6	What is the legacy of Chermayeff and Geismar in modern graphic design?	Their innovative approach to logo design and branding continues to influence contemporary designers, emphasizing clarity, simplicity, and strong visual storytelling.
7	Are Ivan Chermayeff and Tom Geismar still active in design today?	Ivan Chermayeff passed away in 2017, but Tom Geismar remains active, and their firm continues to operate, carrying forward their design philosophy.
8	How did Chermayeff and Geismar impact the branding industry?	They revolutionized logo design by creating instantly recognizable symbols that communicate complex ideas simply, setting new standards in corporate branding and visual identity.

branding, graphic design, logo design, corporate identity, visual communication, design studio, branding agencies, logo creators, visual branding, design innovators

Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar eBook Resource

Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar eBooks provide structured digital knowledge.

Core Discussion

Digital books help readers maintain productivity.

Practical Use

Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar eBooks support consistent study routines.

Conclusion

Digital reading improves access to information.

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Digital documents are easy to copy and share, which makes protection and compliance essential. Applying appropriate safeguards ensures that Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar remains trustworthy, legally compliant, and safe to distribute in various environments, from personal use to large-scale publication.

Understanding PDF security features

PDF files include built-in security options designed to protect content from unauthorized access or modification. These features include password protection, restricted editing, controlled printing, and limited copying. When applied correctly, security settings help maintain the integrity of Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar while still allowing legitimate use.

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For public educational or informational materials, lighter security settings may be more appropriate. For confidential or proprietary content, stronger restrictions help reduce misuse and unauthorized distribution.

Protecting sensitive information in PDFs

PDFs often contain personal, financial, or confidential information. Before sharing, it is essential to review content carefully. Removing hidden metadata, comments, or revision history helps prevent accidental disclosure. When handling Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar, ensuring that only intended information is included improves data security.

Redaction tools provide a secure way to permanently remove sensitive text or images. Proper redaction ensures that removed information cannot be recovered, unlike simple visual masking techniques.

Digital signatures and document authenticity

Digital signatures help verify document authenticity and integrity. A signed PDF confirms that the content has not been altered since signing and identifies the signer. Applying digital signatures to Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar adds a layer of trust, especially for official or legal documents.

Digital signatures are widely used in contracts, certifications, and formal documentation. They help recipients verify that the document is legitimate and originates from a trusted source.

Copyright basics for PDF documents

Copyright law protects original works, including text, images, and designs found in PDF documents. When creating or distributing Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar, it is important to understand who owns the rights and how the content may be used. Copyright applies automatically upon creation, even if no explicit notice is included.

Using copyrighted material without permission may result in legal consequences. This includes copying, redistributing, or modifying content beyond permitted use. Understanding copyright boundaries helps prevent unintentional violations.

Licensing and permitted use

Licenses define how content may be used, shared, or modified. Some PDFs are distributed under specific licenses that allow reuse with conditions, such as attribution or non-commercial use. Reviewing license terms associated with Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar ensures compliance with usage rights.

Creative Commons licenses, for example, provide flexible usage options while protecting creator rights. Knowing which license applies helps users understand what actions are allowed or restricted.

Fair use and educational exceptions

In some jurisdictions, fair use or educational exceptions allow limited use of copyrighted material without permission. These exceptions typically apply to purposes such as teaching, research, criticism, or commentary. However, fair use is context-dependent and not guaranteed.

When using Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar in educational settings, it is

important to ensure that usage falls within legal guidelines. Providing proper attribution and limiting distribution reduces legal risk.

Attribution and proper citation

Providing clear attribution respects intellectual property and supports ethical content use. When referencing or incorporating external material into Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar, proper citation acknowledges original creators and sources.

Clear attribution also improves credibility and transparency, especially in academic and professional documents. Including references and source information supports responsible information sharing.

Avoiding plagiarism in PDF content

Plagiarism occurs when content is presented as original without proper acknowledgment. This applies to text, images, charts, and other media. Ensuring originality or proper citation in Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar protects creators and maintains trust with readers.

Using plagiarism detection tools before publishing helps identify potential issues and ensures that content meets ethical and legal standards.

Distribution rights and sharing limitations

Not all PDFs are intended for unrestricted distribution. Some documents are licensed for personal use only, while others permit sharing under specific conditions. Before redistributing Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar, reviewing distribution rights prevents violations and misuse.

Clear usage statements included within PDFs help inform users about permitted actions, reducing confusion and unintentional infringement.

DRM and copy protection considerations

Digital Rights Management (DRM) technologies can be applied to PDFs to

control access and usage. DRM may restrict copying, printing, or sharing. While DRM provides strong protection, it can also limit compatibility and user experience.

Deciding whether to use DRM for Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar depends on content value, audience expectations, and distribution goals. In some cases, lighter protection combined with clear licensing is more effective.

Legal compliance across regions

Copyright and data protection laws vary by country. What is legal in one region may not be permitted in another. When distributing Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar internationally, understanding regional regulations helps ensure compliance and reduces legal risk.

For organizations, consulting legal guidance ensures that PDF distribution practices align with applicable laws and standards across jurisdictions.

Privacy and data protection laws

PDFs containing personal data must comply with privacy regulations such as data protection and confidentiality requirements. Collecting, storing, or sharing personal information within Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar should follow legal guidelines to protect individual privacy.

Limiting data collection, anonymizing information, and securing access are key practices for maintaining compliance and trust.

Handling user-generated content in PDFs

Some PDFs include user-generated content such as comments, forms, or submissions. Managing this data responsibly is essential. Clear policies regarding storage, access, and retention protect both users and content owners when handling Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar.

Removing unnecessary personal data before archiving or sharing PDFs

reduces risk and supports compliance with privacy standards.

Document retention and deletion policies

Legal and organizational requirements may dictate how long documents should be retained. Establishing retention policies ensures that PDFs are stored appropriately and deleted when no longer needed. Applying these practices to Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar supports compliance and reduces data exposure.

Secure deletion methods ensure that sensitive documents cannot be recovered after disposal, further protecting information security.

Educating users about legal and security responsibilities

Users often play a role in maintaining document security and legal compliance. Providing guidance on proper usage, sharing, and storage of Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar helps reduce misuse and accidental violations.

Clear instructions and usage notices included within PDFs support responsible behavior and reinforce expectations for readers and recipients.

Risk management and proactive protection

Proactively addressing security and legal risks reduces potential issues before they arise. Regular reviews of security settings, licensing terms, and distribution methods help ensure that Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar remains compliant and protected.

Staying informed about legal updates and security best practices allows content creators and distributors to adapt to changing requirements effectively.

Final thoughts on PDF security and legal use

Security, copyright, and legal considerations are essential aspects of responsible PDF usage. By understanding protection features, respecting intellectual property, and complying with legal standards, users can safely

create and distribute Ivan Chermayeff And Tom Geismar. Thoughtful practices ensure that PDFs remain valuable, trustworthy, and legally sound resources in an increasingly digital world.