

## Google An Internet Young Gun Again, Joining LinkedIn

Google (GOOG) enjoyed a huge stock run from its August 2004 IPO to the end of 2007. But after a long struggle in what appeared to be an early midlife crisis, the search giant has once again become an Internet "young gun."

IBD's [Screen Of The Day](#) is Young Guns — top-performing stocks that came public within the last 15 years. Big winners tend to come from nimble, relatively youthful firms. And tech firms often are game changers. Despite its size — Google recently topped IBM (IBM) and Microsoft (MSFT) in terms of market capitalization, the company remains innovative.

Tech-giant Google has expanded beyond just search ads, developing the Chrome desktop browser and Android, the world's most-used smartphone operating system, even more than uber-trendy Apple (AAPL).

One of its main search peers, the Chinese giant Baidu (BIDU), has been rocked by some analyst price target reductions in part on fierce competition in that market.

Google has largely pulled out of China on censorship issues, ceding the space to Baidu. But Google is locked in tighter competition in Russia with Yandex (YNDX), another IBD Young Gun. The search company has a top-tier 99 Composite Rating. It's also a new addition to the elite [IBD 50 list](#) at No. 45.

Cloud computing is a relatively young field. So it stands to reason that a pioneer in the space has a relatively few years under its belt as a public company. NetSuite (N), which delivers on-demand enterprise software over the Web, tripled earnings per share 200% in its last quarter. Bigger enterprise software players such as Oracle (ORCL) and SAP (SAP) are now racing to reinvent themselves as cloud firms.

Another Internet Young Gun is professional networking site LinkedIn (LNKD). LinkedIn is much smaller than Facebook (FB). But it also doesn't have the baggage associated with the social media giant. It also is far less dependent on online advertising. LinkedIn shares were up 164% from its May 2011 debut. Facebook famously flopped this past May, and was down 41% from that IPO.

Google, LinkedIn and network management software maker SolarWinds (SWI) also pull double-duty, appearing on both the Young Guns and [IBD 50](#)

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