



The Life List

# 6 red-hot tech titans

Young, rich and clean-cut, these home-grown leaders have been turning heads



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Their riches are well-documented, and so are their entrepreneurial and business achievements.

Their choice of residence? Preferably a Good Class Bungalow (GCB). Apart from their wealth, youth, vision and drive, these Singaporean leaders of tech firms have also been in the spotlight for another reason: their clean-shaven good looks.

TikTok chief executive Chew Shou Zi (right) won netizens' hearts when he spoke to the United States Congress on March 23, with many swooning over his "low body fat" and chiselled jawline.

The Sunday Times rounds up local tech high-flyers who have been turning heads.

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**CHEW SHOU ZI, 40, CEO OF TIKTOK**

He was grilled by the US Congress over hot-button issues such as data privacy and China's influence over the video-sharing app. But Mr Chew's calm under fire

won high praise – and a sea of thirst trap memes.

Some branded him a "zaddy", internet slang for a charming, stylish man. Others called him an "oppa" (Korean for "big brother") and compared him with dashing South Korean actor Jung Sung-il (right).



The Hwa Chong alumnus was an officer in the Singapore Armed Forces during his national service. He has degrees from University College London and Harvard Business School, worked as a banker at Goldman Sachs and interned at Facebook – now Meta –

when the social media platform was still a start-up.

In March 2021, Mr Chew joined TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, as its first chief financial officer. Within two months, he was appointed TikTok's CEO. He met his wife Vivian Kao –

who is Taiwanese-American and the chief executive of private wealth management advisory firm Tamarind Global – in 2008 at Harvard. They have two children.

In 2021, Mr Chew bought a property in the Queen Astrid Park GCB area for \$86 million.



**ANTHONY TAN, 41, CEO OF GRAB**

Son of Mr Tan Heng Chew, who is president of Malaysia car distributor Tan Chong Motor, the Malaysia-born businessman has made a name for himself by transforming Grab from a taxi-booking app to a super app for food and grocery ordering, as well as mobile payments.

Armed with degrees from the University of Chicago and Harvard Business School, he reportedly starts his day at 5.30am and is seldom in bed before midnight. The fitness aficionado also finds time to practise yoga and pray daily with his family.

His wife is Ms Chloe Tong, daughter of Phileo Allied Bank founder and Edge Media Group owner Tong Kool Ong. The couple have three boys and a girl.

In 2021, Ms Tong reportedly bought a freehold property in the Bin Tong Park GCB area for \$40 million.

**IAN ANG, 30, CEO OF SECRETLAB**

This baby-faced entrepreneur could pass off as an actor or model. Yet, Mr Ang's talent lies in making and selling gaming chairs, which made him a multi-millionaire even before he turned 30.

He had dropped out of university to co-found ergonomic chair retailer Secretlab in 2014.

The gamble paid off. His accomplishments have led to a slew of awards, such as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year prize in 2020.

In 2021, he joined the GCB club and bought a \$36 million bungalow in Caldecott Hill estate, as well as a five-bedroom triplex penthouse at Leedon Residence, off Farrer Road.

In a 2020 interview, he said he was in a relationship.



PHOTOS: AFP, CHENG JUN LIANG, NINJA VAN, SECRETLAB, ST FILE



**QUEK SIU RUI, 35, CEO OF CAROUSELL**

Carousell chief executive Quek Siu Rui is often spotted with a geeky grin and a hand in his pocket during photo shoots. He even rocked a faux mohawk hairstyle in the early 2010s.

The former Ngee Ann Polytechnic student was among the first polytechnic alumni to receive the Global Merit Scholarship from the National University of Singapore in 2007.

Together with friends Lucas Ngoo and Marcus Tan, he launched online classifieds marketplace Carousell in 2012, where users can find anything from furniture to pet supplies.

In 2019, he said he was single.



**TAN MIN-LIANG, 45, CEO OF RAZER**

With spiky hair and a signature black T-shirt and jeans ensemble, the poster boy of Singapore's tech scene rocks the too-cool-to-care look.

He co-founded Razer, which sells gaming hardware such as laptops, keyboards and mice.

Mr Tan's casual persona belies his smarts. The Raffles Institution and Hwa Chong Junior College alumnus has a law degree from the National University of Singapore, and had worked for local law firm Rajah and Tann.

He also once set up a technology practice, Keystone Law Corporation, with friends.

Little is known about Mr Tan's private life, but he is said to have a close relationship with his parents.

In a 2014 Facebook post, he said his mother would call him to stop playing games and have lunch, or the food would get cold and she would get angry. He wrote: "I went down immediately. I guess some things never change."

In 2021, he bought a GCB in Third Avenue for \$52.8 million.



**LAI CHANG WEN, 35, CEO OF NINJA VAN**

Affable and with a boyish grin, he wants you to trust his company to send your parcels across South-east Asia.

The former derivatives trader at Barclays bank had always wanted to go into business, and previously set up a men's custom fashion retailer, Marcella.

In 2014, he co-founded Ninja Van, a tech-enabled logistics company.

He hit pay dirt, thanks to the pandemic, and Ninja Van's reach now extends to countries such as Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Singapore Management University graduate is married to a civil servant.