



GeekWire reports on Microsoft's latest employee layoffs.

Description

Microsoft recently made the decision to lay off employees as part of a regular workforce adjustment. While the exact number of employees affected was not disclosed, posts on LinkedIn indicate that the cuts impacted product and program management roles. The company stated that these organizational changes are necessary for managing business operations and ensuring future growth.

This recent round of layoffs follows a similar event last month, where around 1,000 employees were let go, particularly in areas like the Azure cloud unit and HoloLens mixed-reality organization. Earlier in the year, Microsoft also laid off nearly 2,000 employees in its gaming unit after acquiring Activision Blizzard.

The company's headcount has remained stable over the past two years, with approximately 227,000 employees worldwide at the end of the 2023 calendar year. Microsoft continues to prioritize strategic growth areas and investments to support its customers and partners during this period of change.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Adjustment** /ə'dʒʌst.mənt/ (noun): A small alteration or movement made to achieve a desired fit or result.
2. **Organizational** /ˌɔːr.gən.ə'zeɪ.fən.əl/ (adjective): Relating to the structure or arrangement of a company or institution.
3. **Operations** /ˌɒp.ə'reɪ.fənz/ (noun): The activities involved in the functioning or activities of a business.
4. **Prioritize** /praɪ'ɔːr.i.taɪz/ (verb): To designate or treat something as more important than other things.
5. **Unit** /'juː.nɪt/ (noun): A single distinct part of a larger whole often used for organization.
6. **Acquiring** /ə'kwɑɪər.ɪŋ/ (verb): Obtaining or gaining possession of something.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What prompted Microsoft to lay off employees recently?

Option: A. Lack of employee performance

Option: B. Regular workforce adjustment

Option: C. Financial distress



Option: D. Competition from other tech companies

2. In which roles were employees impacted by the recent layoffs at Microsoft?

Option: A. Sales and Marketing

Option: B. Engineering and Development

Option: C. Product and Program Management

Option: D. Operations and Support

3. How many employees were laid off in the previous round of layoffs mentioned?

Option: A. 500 employees

Option: B. 1,000 employees

Option: C. 2,000 employees

Option: D. 5,000 employees

4. Which unit in Microsoft was significantly impacted by layoffs after acquiring Activision Blizzard?

Option: A. Azure cloud unit

Option: B. HoloLens mixed-reality organization

Option: C. Gaming unit

Option: D. Mobile division

5. What was Microsoft's headcount at the end of the 2023 calendar year?

Option: A. 200,000 employees

Option: B. 220,000 employees

Option: C. 225,000 employees

Option: D. 227,000 employees

6. What is Microsoft's main priority during the period of change mentioned in the text?

Option: A. Employee satisfaction

Option: B. Strategic growth areas and investments

Option: C. Cost-cutting measures

Option: D. Competition analysis

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. B. Regular workforce adjustment 2. C. Product and Program Management 3. B. 1,000 employees 4. C. Gaming unit 5. D. 227,000 employees 6. B. Strategic growth areas and investments

Vocabulary quizzes



Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is described as difficult to find catch or achieve?
Option: Culminating
Option: Elusive
Option: Bonuses
Option: Mysteries
2. Which word relates to the structure and coordination of activities in a business or organization?
Option: Prioritize
Option: Unit
Option: Organizational
Option: Operations
3. What is a distant astronomical object that emits powerful energy?
Option: Galaxies
Option: Quasar
Option: Spectrograph
Option: Chemical Composition
4. Which word means to introduce new ideas methods or products?
Option: Evolution
Option: Observed
Option: Innovate
Option: Intellectual Property
5. Which term refers to the state or fact of exclusive rights and control over property?
Option: Significant
Option: Ownership
Option: Fair Use
Option: Configurations
6. What is a sum of money granted by the government to assist an industry or business to keep the price of a commodity low?
Option: Competitive
Option: Subsidy
Option: Independent
Option: Acquiring
7. Which word means to notice or perceive something and register it as being significant?
Option: Profound
Option: Ownership



- Option: Fair Use
- Option: Observed

8. Which term signifies the gradual development of something especially from a simple to a more complex form?

- Option: Ownership
- Option: Fair Use
- Option: Evolution
- Option: Significant

9. What is described as limiting or limited to one person or group?

- Option: Adjustment
- Option: Exclusive
- Option: Acquiring
- Option: Unit

10. Which word refers to something that can be used again or repeatedly?

- Option: Payloads
- Option: Reusable
- Option: Competitive
- Option: Subsidy

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

- 11. Employees were happy to receive _____ for their hard work during the year.
- 12. After feedback from customers the company made an _____ to its pricing strategy.
- 13. To complete the project on time the team needed to _____ their tasks effectively.
- 14. The company focused on _____ new technology to stay ahead of the competition.
- 15. The new product launch had a _____ impact on the company's revenue.
- 16. The philosopher made a _____ statement about the nature of existence.
- 17. Educators can utilize copyrighted material under the principle of _____.
- 18. The IT team customized the software _____ to suit the needs of the users.
- 19. The industry's _____ landscape required companies to adapt quickly to survive.



20. The artist preferred to remain _____ and not be tied to any particular gallery.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Before they could on their space mission the astronauts had to undergo extensive training.
22. Detectives are drawn to solving complex cases that involve various clues and .
23. The sales team worked together as a to achieve their monthly targets.
24. The structure of the company ensured that tasks were delegated effectively.
25. The smooth of the factory was crucial for meeting production deadlines.
26. Clear documentation is essential to prove of intellectual property.
27. Scientists used a to analyze the light emitted by distant stars.
28. Companies invest in safeguarding their through patents and copyrights.
29. The speaker made a impact on the audience with her insightful words.
30. The mentorship program focused on ensuring the of new employees with experienced staff.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Elusive 2. Organizational 3. Quasar 4. Innovate 5. Ownership 6. Subsidy 7. Observed
8. Evolution 9. Exclusive 10. Reusable

Gap-Fill: 11. Bonuses 12. Adjustment 13. Prioritize 14. Acquiring 15. Significant 16. Profound 17. Fair Use
18. Configurations 19. Competitive 20. Independent

Matching sentence: 1. Embark 2. Mysteries 3. Unit 4. Organizational 5. Operations 6. Ownership 7.
Spectrograph 8. Intellectual Property 9. Profound 10. Matching

CATEGORY

- 1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL2

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