

Josephine Cheng

(b. 1953)

Researcher,
Computer
Scientist

Chinese
American
Place of Birth:
Vietnam

Invention: Db2



Thomas Tang (SFSU 2025)

Josephine was born in Vietnam to Chinese parents and grew up in Hong Kong. After graduating from UCLA with BS and MS degrees, she joined IBM's Santa Teresa Lab, now the Silicon Valley Lab, on the Db2 Database Project. Josephine was responsible for developing IBM's web database technology. She led the development of Db2, a 1984 system that stores, manages, and retrieves data, enabling internet users to access vast amounts of data. Josephine is known for her work in relational database technology, holding multiple database optimization related patents. She was inducted into the US National Academy of Engineering (NAE) in 2006.