Tom Doherty is the founder and Chairman of Tor Publishing Group, the largest publisher of science fiction and fantasy in the United States. He began his career as a salesman for Pocket Books and rose to be Division Sales Manager. From there, he went to Simon and Schuster as National Sales Manager, then became publisher of Tempo Books. He was Publisher and General Manager of the Ace and Tempo divisions of Grossett & Dunlap before founding his own company in 1980, publishing under the name Tor Books. In 1987, Tor became part of what is now Macmillan Publishing.

In the over forty plus years since its founding, Tor Publishing Group has been at the forefront of the science fiction and fantasy genre for decades and has won every major award in the SFF field. In addition to the eponymous imprint Tor Books, Tor Publishing Group includes a number of specialty imprints, all driven by the editorial passion that has always been Tor's signature. Forge Books is committed to publishing quality thrillers and mysteries (often technothrillers set in the present or near future), speculative fiction, contemporary fiction, and media-related nonfiction. Nightfire publishes horror books across the breadth of the genre. Bramble publishes a wide array of romantic stories for the modern reader. Tor Teen and Starscape are dedicated to publishing a select list of quality science fiction, fantasy, and contemporary fiction for young readers and teens. Tordotcom Publishing specializes in original science fiction and fantasy novellas, collections, and anthologies.

Doherty has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Skylark, awarded by the New England Science Fiction Association for outstanding contributions to the field of science fiction; the Silver Bullet Award from the International Thriller Writers; and the Raymond Z. Gallun Award for outstanding contribution to the genre of science fiction; and the Lauriet Award from the Western Writers of America for contribution to literacy. He was also honored with a proclamation from Charles B. Rangel, the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, for outstanding leadership to enhance and provide literacy programs throughout the nation. Doherty has also received a "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the World Fantasy Convention; the Solstice Award from the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America for his significant impact on the science fiction and fantasy landscape; and the Thriller Legend Award from the International Thriller Writers, an award honoring an icon in the industry.