



## Stanford eCorner

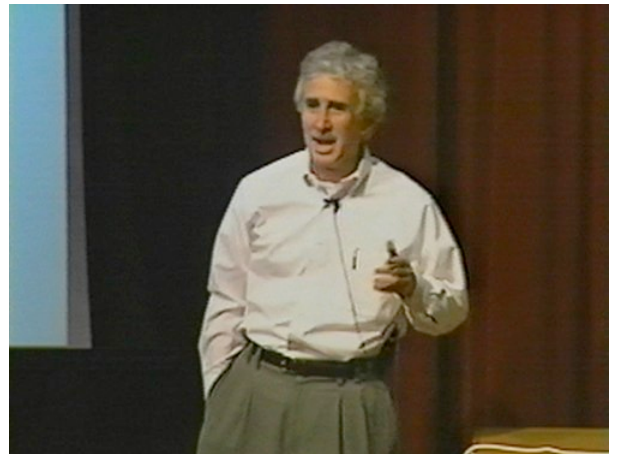
### Envisioning The Future For Optics

Frank Levinson, *Finisar Corporation*

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/674/Envisioning-The-Future-For-Optics>

Levinson believes leadership skills are vital in maintaining a successful company. These skills include being able to see into the future, and predict where the company should go. He talks about the possible future of Finisar.



#### Transcript

The biggest area for me personally is that I've gone through 14 neat holdings and the question is how many more can I handle and be successful still with the place. I'm feeling it. From time to time, I'm feeling, you know, wow, the people we've hired are just tigers and am I still the right to do some leading. In a market sense, I don't know. We do gigabit fiber optic stuff so what underlies all the networks on this campus and storage generally on this campus as well for fiber channel is sort of the SCSI replacement. In an optical sense for that whole space, I think optics is where electronics was somewhere between 1957 and 1962. In those days, people walked around with five transistor radios glued on their ears and you were jealous when your neighbor had a nine-transistor radio, your friend, more was better. But in those days, we counted the number of transistors that every person had or how many transistors were on there. It was about the same number of people. There's more transistors there than there are people so we stopped counting.

Today, there's about the same number of lasers as there are less than that than people on earth and photo diodes for high-speed fiber optics. The question for my industry is are we going to start counting them, keep counting them and this number is going to be one per person or is there reasons for optics and optical things to stop counting things at that level and count them in different ways. So it's that vision thing of where we're going. That's a big deal to us right now because if it's not then we're where electronics was or even now. We're maturing and then we're going to look like steel and it's going to be this market share business as opposed to growth where everybody grows together.