



Stanford eCorner

Learning to Take Risks: A Personal Story

Larry Page, *Google*; Eric Schmidt, *Google*

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/1094/Learning-to-Take-Risks-A-Personal-Story>

Looking back, it is easy to forget the tremendous risks co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin undertook to get to the place they are today. The co-founders once caused the whole Stanford network to go down for a significant amount of time while trying to develop Google. Page remarks that weird things happen when you are trying to touch every computer on the internet.



Transcript

Oh boy, lots of times. I think when we're here at Stanford, I don't know. If you guys have been here for a while maybe you saw this happen; we did various things that were not great like we caused the whole Stanford network to go down for some significant amount of time. Nobody could log in to any computers at Stanford because we were crawling the web and we accidentally crawled the machine at Stanford so fast that served DNS for the whole campus and things like that were a big issue for Stanford and it wasn't at all clear like we were going to be able to get through those things. It was no easy task to download the log and get it on to a couple of computers and process it and we have actually strange people from Singapore who called the university risk management office and I mean all those sorts of things happens when you try to sort of touch every computer on the internet. So those times I was really worried that some external factor would come in and we wouldn't be able to get around it.