



Stanford eCorner

The Accidental Entrepreneur: Palm History

Jeff Hawkins, *Numenta*

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/41/The-Accidental-Entrepreneur-Palm-History>

Hawkins never really wanted to start a company, he admits. He considers himself an accidental entrepreneur who was approached by two venture capitalists while planning on building a small product.



Transcript

You should know that I never really wanted to start a company and sometimes I'm an accidental entrepreneur and I had two venture capitalists who approached me and tried to convince me I ought to start a company, that they ought to be, and convinced me that I ought to accept their money, which is a good way of starting a business. I recommended highly sort of like being hard to get. You know just pretend you're not interested and they try harder. But there was a lot of truth to it. And I should tell you at that time, I really wanted to build a small product but I didn't really want to start a company. My observation of the people who started companies had miserable lives. They worked really hard, most of them end up divorced, and many of them failed, and really depressed. It just didn't work like an attractive thing to do, and so I was reluctant. And I got people who commit that they would work with me on it and that I wouldn't be alone and they'd really help and so that's how Palm get started, really. In total honesty, I was approached by people who said, "We like you.

We think you've good ideas. We think you ought to be really starting a business to do this." And I thought about it for a while I said, "Okay." But I committed not to ruin my life by doing it.