



## Stanford eCorner

### You Can Live a Normal Life

Jeff Hawkins, *Numenta*

October 23, 2002

Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/51/You-Can-Live-a-Normal-Life>

According to Hawkins, no one remembers the 14 hours at work or the time missed with their kids. What people remember is if they changed the world, if they had a good time in the process, or if they promoted a positive culture. He talks about balance in regards to developing a great product and having a normal life. Hawkins believes that you can do it all and live a normal life!



#### Transcript

And lastly, one way to look at this and you've heard of this before and I use it all the time so I'll just mention it again. When you're trying to make life choices, always think about yourself and on your deathbed. That's the place to think. Because we're all going to be there one day. And you're going to be sitting here and you say, "What did I accomplish in my life?" And as you know, you've heard this but I'm just going to remind you, no one says "Gee, I accomplished the fact that I worked 14 hour days." That's nothing to be proud of. I didn't see my kids. That's nothing to be proud of. Even making a lot of money isn't really that something to be proud of. But what you really should be proud of is if you say, did I change the world in a slight way? Did I provide good employment to the people? Did we have a good time? Did we promote a good culture and good values? Do we do positive things in our work product? Believe me, as you get older you think about this more and more. Now I'm not that old.

But at the present I'm thinking out there. As you get older, you think about this more and more and it really is a good mattress. I was just talking to my friend John. It's something I always say, I've always had breakfast and dinner with my family throughout all this time and I don't really work long hours. If I have to, I do. And if I have to travel, I travel. But it's not part of my liking and I don't really want to do that. I want to live a normal life and that's more important. And I want to have better kids. And I want to have great products.

I want it all but you can do it and live a normal life as well.