



## Stanford eCorner

### Joining eBay

Gil Penchina, *Wikia*

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/1539/Joining-eBay>

Gil Penchina, CEO of Wikia, talks about the things that attracted him to eBay and the vision he had of where the company was going when he joined.



#### Transcript

I joined eBay in '98 and at the time their single largest item for sale was Beanie Babies. And there were people running around, buying and selling these things all over the place. And eBay guys called me and they said, "Hey, we'd like you to come in. Come work with us. We think this is a really exciting thing. And you know what? People buy and sell things from each other on trust. People are mailing checks to someone they have never met across the country to get stuff and it really works." And I looked at them and I said, "Yeah, I know." And they said, "What do you mean you know?" I said, "Well, I've been selling things on the Internet. And it's really cool. You meet people. You start talking to them and you find out things about their families.

You get into these really weird conversations with people. It's just fun. So, I get it." And they were like, "You're not supposed to get it. This is the part where we have to explain it to you." So, it was really for me a match made in heaven. I used to buy and sell comic books and coins and stamps. And so, I just loved it. It was such a great place for me. It's rare to get a chance to work somewhere where you really love what you do, not just your work but you actually love what the company does.