



Stanford eCorner

Consumer Internet and Firefox

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/1735/Consumer-Internet-and-Firefox>

Mitchell Baker, CEO of Mozilla, talks about how Firefox played a significant role in changing the consumer side of the Internet. She describes how Mozilla is a key contributor in moving the Internet towards a more complete space. She also explains how the Mozilla project made the Internet serve as a platform for application development.



Transcript

So since you know 2004, so the Internet on the consumer side has changed pretty dramatically. Well, why is that? There's a set of reasons but one of them is Firefox. One of them is the Mozilla project. You know, Tim O'Reilly who coined the phrase Web 2.0 describes Firefox as the oxygen that makes the system viable. Now, that's a lot to say about a piece of software but we're not simply a piece of software. We are pieces of software but we're also a set of people moving the Internet towards a more complete space. But the software is important. Why is Firefox important? Well, first it's a great application for the individual user but it actually represents more than that. Firefox or a browser is the way through which the capabilities of the Internet become apparent to a human being. So our goal at the Mozilla project is to have the Internet itself be the platform for application development.

And to have the Internet to be open meaning operable and transparent at all levels. And for that to happen, it turns out the piece of software that a human being touches, today, the browser is fundamental and it can be the gatekeeper. And so, if you have control over something as prosaic seemingly as the browser, you actually have control over what functionality of the Internet is available. And so, people make browsers because it helps drive the Internet and Internet development and people to something that's important to them.