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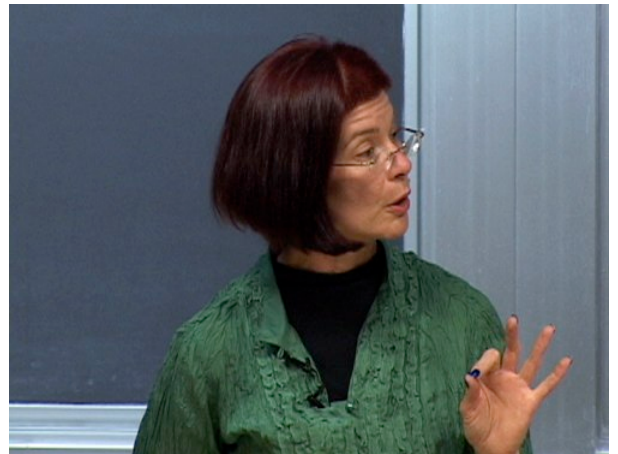
Serving Various Roles at Mozilla

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/1737/Serving-Various-Roles-at-Mozilla>

Baker talks about her different roles at Mozilla, beginning with a position as a lawyer writing a public license that governs the Mozilla project. She describes her progress to a General Manager, board member and finally the CEO of the Mozilla Corporation.



Transcript

Well, I've had many roles. So I'll start at the beginning. When Mozilla was launched in 1998, I was working as a lawyer at Netscape. I was a lawyer in charge of everything related to technology. So, until something was on the price list, it was mine. And so, that meant source codes, anything related to source codes. I ended up writing the Mozilla public license that governs the Mozilla project and at that time, there was the GNU public license and the BST license. So I ended up being involved in the governance and organization structure of Mozilla when it was founded. A year later, I left the Legal Department, I went to Mozilla, and I joined it full-time as its General Manager. You know, and that was possible only because of the technical leader of the project accepting me and saying, "Yes, I want to work with you," and sort of lending me some of his technical authority to lead.

His name is Brendan Eich; he's the creator of JavaScript. Not generally well known but been involved in the fundamental technologies of the web forever and still the technical leader there. So I joined in 1999, and that's when the title of "Chief Lizard Wrangler" was developed. Because I was managing a project that was not about employment. Any corporate title, Director, VP, whatever you could think of, would imply a corporate relationship, which was not the project. So I was the General Manager and I became the spokesperson for the engineers. Meaning, not just the General Manager because I was employed by Netscape to do that, but representing the view of the contributors to the project about how it should operate. And that was important because I was laid off from Netscape. And then, I continued in that role, which was surprising to some of the Netscape-AOL management that after I had left the company and wasn't employed, that the title was mine. Usually when someone leaves or is laid off, their titles pass on to somebody else and their roles are.

So after I was laid off from Netscape, I was the "Chief Lizard Wrangler" of the Mozilla project as a volunteer for a couple of years; solely as a volunteer for a while and then partially as a volunteer and partially subsidized until 2003. Then I became a Board Member and the President of the Mozilla Foundation. And when we made the corporation, I moved and became the CEO of the Mozilla Corporation.