



Stanford eCorner

Learning Happens One Day at a Time

Drew Houston, *Dropbox*

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Dropbox Co-Founder Drew Houston believes false mythologies about tech company founders do a disservice to aspiring entrepreneurs. While many people think all tech founders start with world conquering visions, says Houston, the reality is that founders learn one day at a time just like everyone else.



Transcript

And I talk about some of the kind of more humble beginnings because I think there is this huge disservice that kind of the - of the sort of Silicon Valley methodology, and the things you read in magazines where it's like, you know, right from the moment he was sitting in his dorm room at Harvard, Mark Zuckerberg sought to redefine the face of human communication. And you know, and Google they were going to organize all the world's information and all these different things and you sort of sit there and you're like, you're just trying to like write code and hope it compiles. And you're like, well I know I'm not quite like that, and I'm not thinking about that, I'm thinking about like we have \$60 left in our checking account and I can't loan the company any more money. So anyway, the point is like, in fact Facebook it was number, like project number seven or eight that Mark happened to be hacking on and it just happened to sign up the whole Harvard campus in a couple of weeks, but and Google, like they were - they were rejected when they offered - they wanted to sell the company for \$1 million to Yahoo, and so the point is, all these things start with much more modest ambitions, and even the sort of, the great entrepreneurs. And the - as you sort of reach each of these new milestones, you're like okay, the goalposts move back and so your ambitions are going to be much broader over time, and this is kind of - all this doesn't happen overnight. So when you kind of look at - I talked at the beginning of how kind of daunting everything seems because there is like the little sort of corner of stuff that you know, and this world of stuff that you don't - often that can be enough of a barrier to stop people from even getting started. So, just realize that this - that you have to be systematic about how you learn all these things, but this all happens one day at a time.