



Stanford eCorner

Healthy Skepticism

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/3148/Healthy-Skepticism>

Sharing a story from his time building products at Google, Asana Co-Founder Justin Rosenstein reminds entrepreneurs, "When people tell you something is impossible, be very skeptical."



Transcript

At some point Google was working on a standalone IM client for people that you could - it was like AOL and Instant Messenger. And I asked at some point, well, why don't we just put that inside of Gmail, because people are already chatting, people are already doing communication inside of Gmail, why don't we just add a real time component. And my boss at the time said, oh yeah, we thought of that and it's impossible. I was like, really, it's impossible to do chat inside of a browser, he is like, yeah, we looked into it, totally impossible. He was like in fact I'll bet you that it will never be done inside a browser. And so, I went home that night wrote it or wrote a very simple version of chat, showed it to him next morning and the chat inside of Gmail project started. So, the lesson there of course is, when people tell you something is impossible be very skeptical.