

synnovation

Vol. 1 Issue 2

Answers Are Out There

Globalization blurs boundaries and demands new business paradigms. How your enterprise navigates the new world dictates your future.

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Up Close and Personal

Talking with **Scott McNealy**,
chairman and president of
Sun Microsystems



Often outspoken and unconventional, Scott McNealy is one of the most notable executives in American business—and one of the most influential leaders in the fast-moving IT industry. Along with three other college kids from Stanford, he founded Sun (Stanford University Network) Microsystems in 1982, and has been steering the company toward constant growth and innovation ever since.

Family

Wife, Susan, and four young boys

Colleges and Degrees

Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Harvard University, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Stanford University

What magazines do you read?

Dozens—mostly business and computer trade, as well as *Sports Illustrated* and *Hockey News*. And of course, *synnovation*.

What's your favorite thing to watch on TV?

San Jose (Calif.) Sharks hockey

What's the most daring feat you've accomplished?

Starting Sun Microsystems

What music do you have on your digital player?

Country western—lots of Willie Nelson

How do you balance family, travel, and the demands of your job?

I refuse to feel guilty.

Name your favorite hotel.

Bellagio in Las Vegas

What's your favorite quote?

"Only the most secure can do nothing."
-Unknown

Who influenced your career the most, and how?

Dick Klienbens of Kodak—In 1984, he refused to let Kodak invest in Sun unless I was appointed CEO.

What was the turning point in your career?

Having a burger at McDonald's with venture capitalist and Sun co-founder, Vinod Khosla, and agreeing to quit my job to start Sun

If you weren't Sun's CEO, what do you think you'd be doing for a living?

I'd be selling computers, storage, software, and services for Sun.

What's your favorite restaurant and dish?

Chicken Caesar salad from Parkside Grill in Portola Valley, Calif.

What advice would you give to your successor?

Sleep now.

We heard that you once went through extraordinary measures to get "ice time" to play hockey. What did you do?

There is nothing you can do that should or could be called extraordinary when it comes to getting ice time.

Who are the most interesting/exciting people you've met?

Lee Kwan Yew, former Prime Minister of Singapore, and Arnold Schwarzenegger, "the Govenator" of California

What personal and/or professional accomplishment are you most proud of?

I "married up" and am raising four awesome little boys.



How do you spend your leisure time?

Playing golf and ice hockey, and raising the boys

Where's your favorite vacation spot?

Palm Springs and Pebble Beach for the golf-Fore!

What would your family or friends say is your biggest weakness?

Going for the green when I should be laying up

What was your best golf game played?

Always the next one

What book are you reading right now, and what's your favorite book of all time?

Respectively, "Season of Life" by Jeffrey Marx and "Rules of Golf" by Jeffrey Kuhn and Bryan Garner

