

BIO

David Warthen is a pioneering engineer who has been involved in creating innovative software technologies for more than 20 years. He is well-known as the Chief Technology Officer [CTO] and Co-Founder of Ask Jeeves, the first natural language search engine on the Internet, where he conceptualized and created Jeeves' unique human-centered approach to information retrieval and user query analysis. Jeeves grew to become among the top 15 Internet sites. Warthen successfully piloted the company from garage startup to a publicly traded global company. The site typically answers 3.5 million questions a day and over 5 million questions a day during peak traffic periods.

Warthen is currently CEO and Founder of Future Vistas, Inc., a Berkeley-based technology innovation firm, which provides research and development consulting services. The company also is engaged in cutting edge internal research and development, focusing on bio-informatics, grid computing, and search and information retrieval software. In addition, he is interested in the societal, economic, and legal implications of the application of technology.

Before starting Future Vistas, Warthen was CTO of GlobalStreams, Inc., an innovative, 100-person digital video processing company, where he guided the development of the company's primary products, Globecaster and OnQ, all-in-one solutions aimed at meeting the needs of education, corporate and broadcast clients in the emerging Internet streaming video market.

Warthen began his career by earning a B.A. in both Computer Science and Biology at the University of California at San Diego in 1981. He then went to work as a programmer for NCR before moving to Berkeley where he joined a venture-funded startup, Virtual Microsystems in 1983, where he progressed from programmer to vice president of engineering during his six-year tenure. At Virtual Microsystems, he and a team of engineers developed pioneering co-processor and multi-processor hardware and software that enabled VAX computers to run DOS applications. He worked on fast mini-computer device drivers, a ROM BIOS and PC emulation, multi-processor operating system technology, and network protocols, all cutting edge technical issues in the 1980s.

In 1990, after several years of independent consulting, Warthen founded Desktop Software, a Berkeley-based software development outsourcing firm, where he managed a engineering team to implement networking protocols, a file system, and CD-ROM servers for clients including Microsoft, Digital Equipment Company [DEC], Logcraft, LanTec, Quantum and others. He also consulted on the development of an interactive television channel for the Time Warner ITV trials in Orlando, Florida. Working on CD-ROM server applications, he became interested in and studied information retrieval technology. In 1995, he partnered with venture capitalist and former Virtual Microsystems CEO Garrett Gruener on a new idea for a search engine and in 1996 the two formed Ask Jeeves, Inc.

During Warthen's tenure, Ask Jeeves grew from a modest prototype in 1995 to an IPO and worldwide acclaim as the friendliest, easiest-to-use, and most efficient Internet search site in the late 1990s, outperforming

many leading search engines in customer satisfaction. The Ask Jeeves technology was privately licensed and deployed on customized, domain-specific implementations on more than 100 corporate web sites, including Dell Computers, Hewlett Packard, Daimler Chrysler, Ford, American Express, Visa, and the state of Washington.

Mr. Warthen is a frequent speaker on information retrieval and search technologies and continues to attend both national and international symposium in these fields. He is currently engaged in graduate work and research in computing at the School of Information Management and Systems (SIMS) at the University of California at Berkeley.