

MEDIUM BIO

Rod Beckstrom is a well-known cybersecurity authority, Internet leader and expert on organizational leadership. He is the former President and CEO of ICANN, founding Director of the U.S. Government's National Cybersecurity Center in the Department of Homeland Security and co-author of the critically acclaimed book, *The Starfish and the Spider: The Unstoppable Power of Leaderless Organizations*.

He currently serves as an advisor to multinational companies and international institutions, and is a member of the core team on the Future of the Internet at the Swiss-based World Economic Forum. He is a frequent international media commentator and public speaker.

As a graduate student aided by two Nobel prize-winning economists, Rod created CAT•S Software, a public risk management company, in his Stanford, California, garage apartment. As CEO, he grew it into a global enterprise and took it public on the NASDAQ. He also served as the Chief Security Advisor for Samsung Electronics, focusing on mobile, Internet of Things and cloud technologies. He is an investor in and advisor to four security technology companies that each focus on applying machine learning and artificial intelligence to different key security challenges. He is also helping to shape the new Cybersecurity Policy Program at Stanford University.

Rod is a committed philanthropist and environmentalist, serving as an advisory trustee of the Environmental Defense Fund.

He graduated from Stanford University with a BA with Honors and Distinction and an MBA, and was a Fulbright Scholar in economics at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland.