

Technical Careers, Reaching the Top

Primary Contact

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Panel Summary

Women are not well represented in the most senior positions of technology companies, and often they don't believe that a technical position is a compelling choice. But there are women who do take on these most senior roles, and this panel talks with a number of them. We have a mix of experience including a CIO, a CTO of a large company and CTO of a start up.

Topics that we will discuss include

- What does it mean to be a CIO/CTO of a company of the size of the one you are involved with
 - What role do you play in the overall management of the company
 - What role do you play in the technical future of the company
- What do you see as the biggest challenges in your role
- What are the most rewarding part of the position
- What are the advantages of having a woman CTO/CIO
- What advice do you have for those that are considering such a role in their future?
- Why do you think so few women choose this as a role.

Panel Participants

Moderator: Telle Whitney

Telle Whitney joined the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology as President and CEO in October of 2002. Before accepting the position with the Anita Borg Institute she was part of the founding management team at Malleable Technologies, a startup in the programmable communication area. Malleable was acquired by PMC-Sierra in June 2000. She served as Vice President of Engineering at Malleable until its acquisition. Prior to joining Malleable, Telle was an executive at Actel Corporation, where she held a number of diverse positions in the software engineering and chip design. In 1994 Telle co-founded the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing conference along with Dr. Anita Borg. Telle received her Ph.D. from Caltech in 1985, and her BS at the University of Utah, both in Computer Science.

1. Lucy Sanders, Executive in Residence, ATLAS (Alliance for Technology, Learning and Society), University of Colorado at Boulder

A recipient of the Bell Labs Fellow Award, Ms. Sanders retired as a CTO and Vice President of R&D at AT&T Bell Labs, Lucent Bell Labs and Avaya Labs. She joined the University of Colorado's ATLAS (Alliance for Technology, Learning and Society) institute, whose broad mission includes bridging

information technology with the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Ms. Sanders serves on the advisory board for the Women's College Applied Computing Program at the University of Denver, and works with public schools and outreach camps to recruit girls and minorities into IT disciplines.

2. Marcia Balestrino, Senior VP, Information & Technology and CIO, Girl Scouts of the USA

3. Mar Hershenson, CTO and Founder, Barcelona Design

Mar Hershenson led a ground-breaking research project on a radically new method for automating analog circuit design using convex optimization. The project was conducted in partnership with Prof. Stephen Boyd and Prof. Thomas Lee of Stanford University's Electrical Engineering department. Their research work is the basis of Barcelona's technology.

Prior to Barcelona Design, Dr. Hershenson worked at leading Silicon Valley companies such as Linear Technology Corporation and Apple Computer. Dr. Hershenson was nominated one of the 100 leading innovators under 35 years old by MIT Technology Review in 2002. In 1998, she was honored an IBM Fellowship for her research which included areas in RF passive components as well as a single-chip CMOS GPS receiver. Dr. Hershenson has been awarded three patents and has three other patents pending.

Mar Hershenson graduated with honors with a BSEE degree from the Universidad Pontificia de Comillas in Madrid, and received her MS and PhD degrees in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University. Mar has been a consulting assistant professor at Stanford EE department since 2001.