

Stanford eCorner

Comfort in Ambiguity

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The CEO's main talent is to see around the corners and fuzzy edges, says NVIDIA's Cofounder and CEO Jensen Huang. An effective company leader needn't necessarily be outgoing, but they must be exceedingly comfortable with ambiguity – taking risks and not always plotting the exact outcome. If this is your comfort zone, says Huang, then enterprise leadership is the right path to pursue.



Transcript

I think that some people are, you know - I'm not, from a personality perspective, I'm not particularly outgoing.. That's not necessity for being a good CEO.. But as a personality, I've always been able to see around the corners, if you will.. I can around the fuzzy edges and I think CEO's and leaders need to be comfortable with ambiguity.. Ambiguity, meaning that you know what is the future look like? Well, it's hard to say.. Some people hate that.. Some people just say, "Jensen, tell me what you need to have done and with how much resource and by when?" Some people rather tell them that hey look there's opportunity out there not sure what it is, not sure how big it is.. But it kind of feels like let's go figure it out and let's go build a business.. Some people are very comfortable with that.. And so this ambiguity is important to be comfortable with, I guess..

And I think that all CEO's that are very successful are comfortable with ambiguity... I am very comfortable with ambiguity...