Tony Fadell: The Game Has Changed! You Don't Need Silicon Valley | E47

Summary

In part two of the conversation with Tony Fidel, he shares the story of how he came up with the idea for the Nest Thermostat. It was born out of his own frustrations with thermostat control and energy efficiency at his vacation home in Lake Tahoe. Fidel realized that these problems were not limited to the US but existed globally. He emphasizes that entrepreneurs don't need to be in Silicon Valley to start a successful tech company and can find technology, talent, and funding globally. Fidel's motivation for starting a company was never about making money, but rather about solving a problem and curiosity.

Silo sample questions

- Where did the idea for the Nest Thermostat come from?
- What made Tony Fidel realize that the same thermostat and home energy problems exist globally?
- What advice does Tony Fidel have for aspiring entrepreneurs who think Silicon Valley is the best place to start a tech company?
- What was Tony Fidel's motivation for starting a company?

Topics

Tony Fidel's journey and the idea for Nest Thermostat
The problem of thermostat control and energy efficiency
The importance of getting out of the Silicon Valley echo chamber
The changing landscape of technology and global accessibility
Motivation for starting a company and the role of money

Key Takeaways

- Tony Fidel, inventor of the iPhone and Nest Thermostat, left Apple in 2008 and took a year and a half trip around the world with his family before coming up with the idea for Nest Thermostat.
- The idea for the Nest Thermostat came from Fidel's own experience of having to suffer cold nights at his vacation home in Lake Tahoe and the frustration of not being able to remotely control the thermostat.
- Fidel realized that the same thermostat and home energy problems existed around the world, not just in the US.
- Fidel believes that entrepreneurs don't need to be in Silicon Valley to start a successful tech company, as technology, talent, and funding are now accessible globally.
- The motivation for starting a company should be about solving a problem and curiosity, rather than just making money.

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