**Yossi Vardi**

A businessman, a high-tech entrepreneur, and an Israeli investor. Often referred to in the media as "the guru of the Israeli Internet."

He graduated from the Technion and in 1969 was one of the founders of Takem Advanced Technology, one of the first software houses in Israel (today in the Ness Group.)

In 1970, at the age of 27, he was appointed Director-General of the Ministry of Development

In 1971 he was appointed Chairman of the Israel Chemicals Company

In 1974 he was appointed Director of the Investment Center in North America

Was the first director general of the Ministry of Energy, and served as chairman of the National Oil Company.

After leaving the government service he was one of the founders of Granite Hacarmel Company, the Alon Company, International Technologies Company ((Lasers) (ITL)), and others. Served as a member of the Board of Directors of some of the largest companies in the Israeli market, including Scitex, Maariv, Elite, Bezeq and others. Served as chairman and member of many public committees, including the Electricity Sector Reform Committee. Served as Chairman of the Jerusalem Foundation. Member of the Advisory Committee of the Bank of Israel and others.

Advised the World Bank and the United Nations Development Program. He served as an advisor to international companies, including AOL and Amazon, a member of the World Economic Forum (Davos Forum.)

In 1993 he was appointed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as Economic Cooperation Advisor to the Arab countries, including Jordan, Egypt, and Syria, and was involved in building plans for long-term joint projects and infrastructure cooperation.

During Netanyahu's first tenure, he was joined as economic advisor to the Wye Plantation talks with the Palestinian Authority.

Helped his son Arik establish Mirabilis, which developed the ICQ software, the world's first instant messaging software via the Internet. Within 19 months of launching the service, the company was sold to AOL for $ 407 million. Since then, Vardi has become one of the most prominent Internet investors in Israel. So far he has invested in more than 50 start-ups.

Many of them were issued or acquired, including Answers.com and Tucows, Gitco (acquired by Microsoft for $ 120 million), Strent (acquired by IAC for $ 20 million), Foxy Tions (acquired by Yahoo for $ 30) Tibla (acquired by Cisco), Airlink (acquired by Sierra Wireless for $ 38 million), and others.

Vardi received the Prime Minister's Award for life work in the High-Tech Industry, the Industry Award in the Electronics category (2008), the Romanciano Prize from Tel Aviv University, and others. In 2009 he received an honorary doctorate from the Technion. In April 2014, Wired Magazine chose him as one of the ten most influential figures in the digital industry in Europe. In November 2014 he received an honorary doctorate from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Vardi is active in various international forums and serves as co-chairman of several Israeli and international internet conferences.