

# Nathan Myhrvold

## Quotes

*People, Thinking, Cooking, Technology, Ideas, Long, Patents, Want, Men,  
Kitchen, Energy, Past, Home, Running, Powerful, Two, Years, Leader, Law,  
Water*

If you have a block of ballistics gelatin and a high-speed camera, pretty soon somebody gets a gun!

~Nathan Myhrvold

Software is a gas; it expands to fill its container.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Software sucks because users demand it to.

~Nathan Myhrvold

If you talk about sous-vide, then you have to talk about food safety, and microbiology, and heat.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Nobody wants a prediction that the future will be more or less like the present, even if that is, statistically speaking, an excellent prediction.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Words can hurt you. In the larger world, it frames how people think about you, and it can hurt you in lots of little, subtle ways.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Bill, we left megalomania behind a long time ago. Now we are gigalomaniacs.

~Nathan Myhrvold

No CEO ever says, 'Damnit, we need to increase research!' I want to encourage them to do that.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Intellectual Ventures is a company that invests in invention.

~Nathan Myhrvold

For relatively modest amounts of sulfur dioxide injected into the

atmosphere, you could easily cool Earth by 1% or more, if you want.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Chefs think about what it's like to make food. Being a scientist in the kitchen is about asking why something works, and how it works.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Nuclear energy is a baseload - meaning it's power that you can run any time you want, day or night - and carbon-free.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Don't let the secret recipe die with the inventor.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Most decisions are seat-of-the-pants judgments. You can create a rationale for anything. In the end, most decisions are based on intuition and faith.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Cooking is for chefs. Science informs us and lets us cook while knowing what we are doing, but it is not a replacement for the skills of a chef.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Software is a gas ! It expands to fit the container it is in !

~Nathan Myhrvold

Technological 'revolutions' don't really overthrow anything - they simply append a new and dynamic market to that which went before.

~Nathan Myhrvold

If I want popularity, I go to a chef's convention.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Efficiency in government is a more elusive concept than efficiency in the private economy, which may be measured relatively easily as output per units of input. What is the government's 'output?'

~Nathan Myhrvold

The physics of water is central to cooking, because food is mostly water. All steak that you cook is actually boiled on the inside.

~Nathan Myhrvold

The world has shown that if you provide capital and expertise to an area that is starved for capital and expertise, really good things will happen.

~Nathan Myhrvold

One of the problems with posing a 'bold new plan' is that you can't just extrapolate from previous plans.

~Nathan Myhrvold

I've never filed a patent lawsuit. I hope never to file a patent lawsuit. That may be unrealistic, but it would be great if I could avoid doing it... Lawsuits are a ridiculous way to do business.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Microsoft, Apple, Facebook all bought huge patent portfolios to further their strategic game. They're doing what I'm doing!

~Nathan Myhrvold

Among modern occupations, only cult leaders and TV weathermen rival the technological visionary's ability to retain credibility despite all evidence to the contrary.

~Nathan Myhrvold

I have a very pragmatic approach to diets. Ones you can't stick to don't do you any good. Some people say, 'Just eat half of what's on your

plate,' but I can't do that!

~Nathan Myhrvold

One of the ugly secrets of the renewable-energy industry is that its products make no economic sense unless they are highly subsidized.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Raw lobster tail, freeze dried, is amazing.

~Nathan Myhrvold

We pay for content that we like, and we like the content we pay for. It's a lot more satisfying to pay \$7.50 for Steven Spielberg's next epic than it is to watch my home movies for free. Even for me.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Making money from enforcing patents is no more wrong than investing in preferred stock.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Many of the things the slow food people honor were innovations within historical times. Somebody had to be the first European to eat a tomato.

~Nathan Myhrvold

I was good at math and science, and I got lots of degrees in lots of things, but in a parallel universe, I probably became a chef.

~Nathan Myhrvold

An efficient government is dangerous in the hands of the wrong man. Sadly, the right sort of man never seems interested in the job.

~Nathan Myhrvold

By burning nuclear waste as fuel, we believe we can power the United States cleanly for hundreds of years without ever touching new

resources.

~Nathan Myhrvold

I wanted to figure out how long to cook things. I did some experiments and then wrote a program using Mathematica to model how heat is transferred through food.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Economists want their discipline to be a science, and they have nailed down a few precepts, but many of their debates are still clouded by ideology.

~Nathan Myhrvold

If your kitchen smells good, your food lost something.

~Nathan Myhrvold

The NeXT purchase is too little too late. Apple is already dead.

~Nathan Myhrvold

If you take a scotch whiskey and distill out the alcohol, what is left has an amazing taste to it and can be used as a flavoring for a dessert.

~Nathan Myhrvold

The ever-growing size of software applications is what makes Moore's Law possible: 'If we hadn't brought your computer to its knees, why would you go out and buy a new one?'

~Nathan Myhrvold

Some article called me the most feared man in Silicon Valley. Good Lord! Why? My teenage boys got a kick out of it: 'Dad, how could this be true? You're not even the most feared person in this house.'

~Nathan Myhrvold

The prize for ultimate inefficiency goes to America. We have built in so

many checks and balances that our 'leaders' are the most thoroughly hogtied of any on Earth.

~Nathan Myhrvold

The whole hardware industry has experienced the phenomenon in which every time computers get cheaper, they appeal to a new set of users; every time they get more powerful, old customers upgrade.

~Nathan Myhrvold

My career at Microsoft really was getting in the way of my cooking.

~Nathan Myhrvold

In the early days of the software industry, people cared about copyright and didn't give a damn about patents - they copied each other willy-nilly.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Cooking is an art, but all art requires knowing something about the techniques and materials. Using modernist techniques, you get more control, and that allows you to be more artistic, not less!

~Nathan Myhrvold

If people don't find what you are doing threatening, then it is probably not very important.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Crazy ideas sometimes work, and the technological society that we have is built on a foundation of those crazy ideas that work.

~Nathan Myhrvold

I think that there is a role for food to be art; and when food is art, it can have drama, it can have spectacle, it can be theatrical. It can be this amazing experience.

~Nathan Myhrvold

A person's basic humanity is not governed by how he or she came into this world, or whether somebody else happens to have the same DNA.

~Nathan Myhrvold

It is better to predict dramatic things that don't happen than boring things that do.

~Nathan Myhrvold

What you do on a dinosaur expedition is you hike and look at the ground. You find bones sticking out of the dirt and, once you see something, you dig.

~Nathan Myhrvold

It's impossible that we're alone in the universe. Every time we think we're more special than others, we're proven wrong.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Researchers who examined the voting records of wine judges found that 90 percent of the time they give inconsistent ratings to a particular wine when they judge it on multiple occasions.

~Nathan Myhrvold

The magic words 'on the Internet,' if inserted into nearly any sentence, seem to protect it from normal critical scrutiny.

~Nathan Myhrvold

People who grow up in a region doubtless have a better cultural awareness of their own cuisine, but it's also true that a lot of locals go to McDonald's, Applebee's and the like.

~Nathan Myhrvold

Our goal was to show people a vision of food they hadn't seen before. So, I had this idea of... let's cut all these things in half, and show a picture of the food in the pan, in the oven.



~Nathan Myhrvold

Ultimately, my Ph.D. is in mathematical physics, focusing on quantum field theory and curved space-time, and I worked with Stephen Hawking.

~Nathan Myhrvold

When we first did 'Modernist Cuisine,' I think most people in cookbook publishing would have said, 'This is insane.'

~Nathan Myhrvold

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