

FIVE NUMBERS ABOUT DIANE

20,000,000,000: market cap of VMware at departure as president and CEO

4: degrees awarded

3: companies founded

3: boards sits on

1976: the year won the Women's National Dinghy Championship in the 420



A virtual machine, or VM, relies on software that simulates the functionality of hardware to allow the user to run multiple operating systems and applications on one physical server, or “host.” For example, a VM can enable the Windows operating system to run on a Mac computer. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, VMware’s products were groundbreaking in boosting performance, streamlining IT administration, and helping organizations cut costs.

TENACITY

Diane sailed competitively and believes that it was through sailing that she learned resilience: just like in sailing, when it comes to startups you must learn to navigate the waters. It won't always be clear waters ahead of you; you must learn to try different paths when you encounter obstacles. She says, “Always keep in mind where you want to go, and why. Be the world expert on where you want to go... and be tenacious about getting there.”