



MATILDA

EFFECT



Pionierinnen der Forschung Female Pioneers of Research

Pt. 61

Radia Perlman



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Radia Perlman (*1951)

Software Developer & Network Engineer

As the daughter of an engineer and a programmer, she was interested in mathematics and science from an early age. Therefore, she enrolled in a mathematics program at *MIT*, which she completed with a Ph.D.



During her studies, she worked on a project focused on child-friendly programming and later joined *BBN Technologies*, where she learned about networking techniques.

BBN

RTX BBN
Technologies

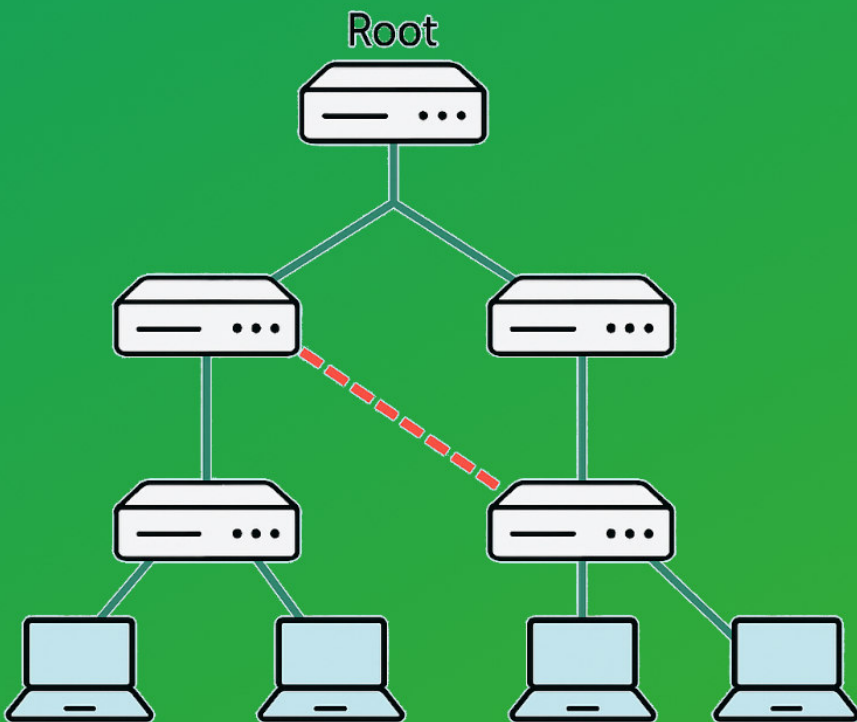
At *Digital Equipment Corporation* (DEC), she made her most significant invention: the *Spanning Tree Protocol* (STP), which enabled stable communication in networks.

digital



STP is a network protocol that prevents loops in data transmission by selectively disabling certain connections, thereby ensuring a more stable and fault-tolerant network.

Spanning Tree Protocol (STP)



STP is an essential component of modern networking technology and earned Perlman the nickname “Mother of the Internet.”

She holds over 100 patents, and her work has significantly influenced the development of secure, stable networks.

In addition to her roles at *Sun Microsystems*, *Intel*, and *Dell*, she is also active in teaching and as an author.





„Stelle ständig infrage, warum die Dinge so sind, wie sie sind.“

„Constantly question why things are the way they are.“

