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## Yahoo Technology Chief to Leave in Wake of Company Revamping

By [MIGUEL HELFT](#)

SAN FRANCISCO, May 30 — Farzad Nazem, [Yahoo's](#) chief technology officer and one of its longest-serving executives, said he would leave on June 8 after 11 years at the company.

Yahoo said its co-founder, Jerry Yang, would assume Mr. Nazem's responsibilities while it searches for a replacement.

The departure of Mr. Nazem, 45, who is known as Zod, will follow a turbulent year at Yahoo that included a companywide revamping. Several other senior executives, including the chief operating officer, have left in the wake of the overhaul.

Yahoo would not make Mr. Nazem or any other executive available to discuss his departure. But a spokeswoman, Joanna Stevens, said that Mr. Nazem had wanted to retire and that he and the chief executive, Terry S. Semel, had been planning his departure for some time.

Writing in the company's [blog](#), Mr. Nazem said, "As I began contemplating retirement, there were a few milestones that I (along with the executive leadership team) wanted to accomplish prior to my departure." Those milestones, he wrote, included the reorganization of the company and its technology group, as well as the introduction of an advertising platform, known as Project Panama, which Yahoo began introducing in February.

"It was very important to me," Mr. Nazem said, "to drive all the way to my last day here at Yahoo without distractions of an announcement like this."

The new advertising platform is aimed at narrowing the lead of [Google](#) in online advertising, but it has yet to translate into financial gains for the company.

Mr. Nazem, who is responsible for the operation of the Yahoo Web site and for product development, was popular among the company's technology ranks, whom he largely helped hire.

This month, Yahoo appointed Blake Jorgensen, a founder of Thomas Weisel Partners, as chief financial officer, replacing Susan L. Decker, who is switching roles to become head of the company's advertiser and publisher group. Yahoo is looking for an executive to lead its audience group, which is responsible for much of the main company Web site. After Mr. Nazem's departure, Yahoo is likely to have vacant positions at the top of two of its three operating units.

As part of his separation agreement, Mr. Nazem will receive a lump sum equal to his base salary for the rest of the year as well as accelerated vesting of stock options and stock awards, a package that an executive compensation firm, Equilar, estimated around \$6.9 million.