ETA KAPPA NU
Electrical and Computer Engineering Honor Society

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Career Synopsis

I graduated from Purdue University with both a BSEE and MSEE. My industry co-op assignments were with Taylor Instrument Company (now MicroMod Automation) and I spent a summer internship at IBM between degrees. After graduating in May of 1984 I went to work for IBM in Poughkeepsie, New York, first designing switching power supplies and then several design roles in microprocessor controlled power thermal systems for IBM Mainframes. A move to the IBM PC Server Group allowed me the opportunity to become the chief engineer for two successful RAID adapters. I was at Red Hat for 4 years as an Engineering Partner Manager for several ISVs and OEMs. Recently I moved to Oracle as Principal Product Manager responsible for program, product, and partner management on the Linux Engineering Team.

Career Highlights
What do you view as the highlights of your career? These can be in terms of greatest challenges, most satisfying achievements, or most enjoyable projects.

PTS error recovery project – I was one of the junior engineers developing the power thermal control systems in IBM's mainframe development area. I was asked to come back to help improve our error recovery to extend customer availability. This was completed with a much smaller group than the original design team with reduced time and resources to get the effort completed. A great technical manager motivated our achievement.

IBM ServeRAID – I was the chief engineer for two of these host bus adapter (HBA) RAID Adapters for the IBM PC Server group. We developed two of these products back to back in 18 months in the mid 1990s' with a team of 45 hardware and software engineers while supporting existing products in the field. We had a cross discipline team that was committed to our products.

Linux partner work – it is a challenge to work with partners on the business side of Linux assisting these companies moving solutions to Open Source Software. With the technical management of partners and internal projects there is never a dull moment.

Education and Career
Relate your education to your career and current responsibilities.

My control theory work and software engineering courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels at Purdue were precisely the background for my work in power and thermal systems design on IBM Mainframes. I trace several of my microprocessor software based product designs back to basics from my education and co-op experience.

In my partner development/technical management role – the problem solving skills from my true engineering days helps me work with partners.

Advice to Engineering Graduates
What specific advice would you offer to engineering students as they complete their education and prepare to launch their careers?

Solving the problem and obtaining the right solution is not enough. Look for the other questions and problems that may arise as well. Why was this problem asked and what other issues might the problem or the solutions lead you or your project or company too. Spend time on the soft skills also. Be able to sell your solution or idea in lay person's terms.
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