CSD EMIGRATION SEMINAR

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GETTING A JOB IN CORPORATE COMPUTING RESEARCH

I graduated from CMU three decades ago, and this is the talk I wish I'd heard before I went job-hunting. Well, not exactly the talk – after all, the world and the CS job market have changed quite a lot since then. But as a graduating Ph.D., I didn't understand the differences between academia and corporate research labs very well, and neither did most of my departmental colleagues. I'm sure things are better today, but Ph.D. graduates could still be better prepared. In this informal talk, I'll discuss what corporate computing research labs tend to look for when they interview and how a candidate can make the most of the process. I'll also have some suggestions for graduate students earlier in their careers to help them get ready for the eventual job hunt.

Roy Levin joined Microsoft in August, 2001, to found the Silicon Valley Research lab. From 1996 until he joined Microsoft, Roy was Director of the Compaq's Systems Research Center in Palo Alto, California. Previously, he was a senior researcher in the Center since its founding in 1984 by Digital Equipment Corporation. During those years, he was a primary contributor and project leader for the Topaz programming environment and its micro-kernel operating system, the first to provide high-performance, light-weight process scheduling and inter-process communication on a multiprocessor workstation. He also was project leader and a primary contributor for Vesta, a software configuration management system embodying novel technology and tools for source control, version management, and building of large software systems. Before joining Digital, Roy was a Principal Scientist at Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center. He was project co-leader and a principal developer of Cedar, an experimental programming environment for high-performance workstations. Cedar set the standard (c. 1982) for integrated programming environments for algol-tradition languages, incorporating significant advances in language technology, file systems, network communication (rpc), and user interfaces. Roy also was a co-developer of Grapevine, a landmark electronic mail system. Roy received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from Carnegie-Mellon University and his B.S. in Mathematics from Yale University. He is a member of the ACM, and a former chair of ACM SIGOPS.

The SCS Emigration Seminars are a series of lectures and discussion sessions that focus on *grooming* you so you'll be ready to conquer the real world when you finish your Ph.D. Unlike the Immigration course, which is held during the first three weeks of the school year, the Emigration course is spread over the entire academic year. While the topics of interest are chosen with the more senior students in mind, students in the entire School of Computer Science are encouraged and welcome to attend.