

Raul Valdes-Perez is an entrepreneur and computer scientist. Currently he is Executive Chairman of Vivisimo Inc, which he led as its CEO/Chairman for nine years after co-founding the company with two doctoral students at Carnegie Mellon University in June, 2000. In the company's early days, he raised National Science Foundation grants totaling nearly \$1M and \$500,000 from Innovation Works (a Pennsylvania state investment agency), which were enough to launch Vivisimo to consistent double-digit revenue growth, profitable quarters, and prominence as an enterprise search company (Leader on the Gartner Magic Quadrant) without raising equity investment even through today. As a thriving 120-person company today, Vivisimo has hundreds of corporate and government customers and competes successfully in enterprise search with large public companies.



Raul's entrepreneurial contributions have been acknowledged with these awards:

- [Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year](#) E-commerce, North Central Area, 2007
- [Top Ten Reader Favorite](#) for Entrepreneur of the Year by Inc. magazine
- [CEO of the year](#) finalist (twice: '06 & '07) by the Pittsburgh Technology Council
- [100 Most Important Hispanics in Business and Technology](#) by Hispanic Engineer magazine (3 consecutive years)
- [CEO Communicator of the Year \(for-profit\)](#) by the Public Relations Society of America (Pittsburgh Chapter)
- [Outstanding Alumni Career Achievement](#), UIC College of Engineering, 2006
- [Carnegie Science Center Information Technology Award for Excellence, 2006](#)
- [Citizen of the Year, 2007](#), Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition

Before starting Vivisimo, Raul was a faculty member (research) from 1991 through 2000 at Carnegie Mellon's computer science department, where he is now an Adjunct Associate Professor. His research was on developing methods and software to accelerate knowledge discovery in the natural and social sciences. He published

nearly 50 research articles in natural, social, and computer science scholarly journals, such as *Artificial Intelligence*, *Machine Learning*, *Brain and Language*, *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, *Organometallics*, *Physical Review E*, *Anthropological Linguistics*, and *Communications of the ACM*. He sees Vivisimo as a continuation of his work on making knowledge workers - whether scientists or not - more productive.

Raul has been a Principal Investigator on seven grants from the National Science Foundation, served on its advisory committee for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences, and was an action editor of the journal *Machine Learning*. Representing Vivisimo, he has spoken at the Wharton Technology Conference, Search Engine Strategies, KM World & Intranets, FOSE, Business4Site, and many others

discussing search technology and its future, and he represented Vivisimo at the White House's Jobs summit in Dec 2009, hosted by President Obama. He is on the Board of Directors of the Pittsburgh Technology Council and the Pittsburgh World Affairs Council, and Advisory Board of Safaba Translation Solutions.

Raul received a computer science Ph.D. at Carnegie Mellon in 1991 with a thesis on "Machine Discovery of Chemical Reaction Pathways" advised by Herbert A. Simon (Nobel Laureate in Economics, 1978). He spent 1984-86 as a Research Scientist at the MIT Artificial Intelligence Lab in Randy Davis's expert-systems group, and 1983-84 as a software engineer at Itau Tecnologia in Sao Paulo, Brazil, designing and implementing a Logo interpreter in Z80 assembly language for a 64kB RAM machine. He graduated with a B.S. (1980) and M.S. (1982) in information engineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He holds one patent in search technology.

Raul was born in Havana, Cuba and attended school in Chicago and its suburbs. He has studied or worked in Spain, Brazil, and China and is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese. He lives with his family in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood and enjoys walking the 2 ½ miles to work and back each day.