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Enterprise Systems: Professors' and Industry's Perspectives on Mainframe Education

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Enterprise Systems: Professors’ and Industry's Perspectives on Mainframe Education

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that by 2014, the IT industry will create close to 1 million new jobs and, with retirements, have more than 1.3 million job openings. IT jobs account for six of the 30 jobs that the bureau predicts will grow the fastest, with increases around 50% over a decade. Consider the fact that IBM leads in the server ($100K +) market and that there are 14 million mainframe MIPS worldwide as well as thousands of mainframe accounts worldwide. While the number of job openings is not known, all indicators point to need for more entry-level people to work on hardware, software, and IT services around the mainframe.

Want to find out more about what colleges and universities are doing to prepare the next generation of enterprise computing experts? This is your opportunity to hear from a panel of leading educators and industry experts discuss what they are doing to meet the demands of the next generation of IT enterprise systems experts.

Panel objectives:

The panel's objective is to provide fresh insights into what is happening in colleges and universities today regarding Enterprise Systems education as well as how industry is reacting to this education in the form of job offers, internships, and co-op positions.

Panel format:

This one hour panel session will consist of a brief IBM Academic Initiative System z overview, followed by each panelist talking about their role with enterprise systems. A portion of time will be reserved for an open-forum panel discussion.

- IBM Corporation - Daniel Gillis, IBM System z IT Architect
- Safeway, Inc. - Michael Wolfson, Group Vice President
- North Carolina Central University - Cameron Seay, Professor
- IBM Corporation - Harry Batten, Strategy Manager

Panelists:

Mr. Daniel Gillis (IBM System z IT Architect)

Dan Gillis is a Technical Sales Specialist located in Seattle, WA with over 25 years of IT experience, working as both a vendor and customer primarily with Mainframe systems. As an IT Architect, Dan advises customers on hardware, software, and application design issues with System z, including their readiness to take on new technology projects.

Before joining IBM in 2007, Dan was a VP in charge of a System z support organization for a large US Bank. As the Director of Education for Candle
Corporation from 1997 to 2003, Dan provided training to employees and customers on both Candle and System z topics. During his time at Candle, he authored or co-authored over 50 technical training courses. Prior to this position, Dan worked in various System z support and management roles at a large telecommunications company, a major outsourcer, and a large auto manufacturer.

Mr. Michael Wolfson (Safeway, Inc., – Group Vice President, Technology Solutions Group and Data Center Services)
Mike joined Safeway in December 2003. As the GVP of Technology Solutions and Data Center Services, Mike is responsible for the delivery of infrastructure capabilities, productivity solutions, data center operations, and infrastructure support. Mike brings to Safeway over 25 years of experience in system architecture, infrastructure engineering, and global data center operations.

Prior to joining Safeway, Mike was the Senior Vice President of Global Processing Services for Visa. In this role, he had responsibility for all elements of their infrastructure technology. During his 13 year tenure at Visa, Mike was responsible for developing a scalable architecture for the payment authorization system capable of processing over 6,000 transactions per second. Also during his tenure at Visa, he served as General Manager of their United Kingdom Data Center.

Dr. Cameron Seay (North Carolina Central University, School of Business, Computer Information Systems)
Cameron Seay has twenty years of industry experience in various capacities. Cameron has been on faculty of North Carolina Central University since 2004 and served as Director for Computing Systems and Information Technology from 2004-2006. Cameron has also worked with IBM on numerous projects, including the Virtual Computing Lab and the Mainframe Academic Initiative. His focus for the past several years has been the development of large systems curriculum at the high school, undergraduate, and graduate level.


Mr. Harry Batten (IBM System z Data Serving Strategy Manager, Enterprise Architect)
Harry Batten hails from Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, and is currently based in the Bay Area. His current position is IBM Strategy Manager for Information System products, including Database, Data Warehousing, Business Intelligence, and Content Management amongst others. In this position, Harry is involved with the planning and development teams for new software programs and features and ensures that these plans are in line with developments in System z Operating Systems and Hardware Platforms.
Harry has 30 plus years in the IT industry, both as a customer and an IBMer. Much of his experience has been spent in customer support positions around mainframe computing in the areas of high and continuous availability, capacity planning, as well as problem determination and resolution. In addition, Harry has helped design and teach many of the courses that are presented as part of IBM’s Academic Initiative System z program and while still currently employed by IBM, he is also a part-time instructor at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY.