

# Whatever Happened to John Terry

| Then   | Capsule Summary  | Now   |
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|   | <p>Born in: Hartford, CT<br/>           Grew Up in: West Hartford, CT<br/>           High School: Conard High School<br/>           Undergraduate Degree: BS Math &amp; Physics, Yale, 1967<br/>           Entered Purdue: Fall, 1967<br/>           Purdue Degrees:<br/>               - MS CS Jan 1969;<br/>           Lived/Worked in: Houston, TX; Cincinnati, OH;<br/>           Retired in: Lincolnville, ME</p>   |  |
| <p>Purdue Highlights</p>   | <p>Career and Personal Highlights</p>  |   |
| <p>John came to Purdue in Fall, 1967 to get a CS graduate degree. One of the first people he remembers meeting was Denny Frailey, and the two of them found they shared a strong preference for the MAD language (from U. Mich.) over Fortran (or almost anything else available at the time.) Unfortunately they were never able to convince the powers that be to install a MAD compiler on the CS computers. (This may have something to do with why the world is in such a mess today, but then again maybe not.) At Purdue he worked in the Computer Center, initially providing assistance to undergrads taking CS courses, and later doing implementation work on the Pilot compiler project. In fact he got so enthused about this he stayed on another month or two after getting his MS degree to work on it before leaving to start the job he had accepted with Purdue's first CS PhD, the late Larry Axsom, at IBM's Houston Scientific Center. He was joined there later in the year by John Berenberg from Purdue's CS dept. In 1971 he married Michelle Hankins, BA Purdue 1968, whom he met (at Lum's) while at Purdue.</p> | <p>John's first job after Purdue was as a programmer at IBM's Houston Scientific Center, working for Purdue's Dr. Larry Axsom on his CDL compiler-compiler project. John's primary task was to use this tool to write a Fortran IV compiler for the IBM 360 that would generate code comparable in optimization to IBM's level G compiler. He left IBM in 1973 at the invitation of Dr. Axsom to join him (and John Berenberg) at Cincinnati Milacron's Electronic Systems Division trying to start a Small Business Computer business. Milacron decided to euthanize this attempt in 1978 and John joined nine others involved in the attempt who left Milacron to set up a new startup company to continue the business. This lasted until 1982 when we were blind-sided by the advent of the PC and much less expensive PC-based Small Business Computers. The company folded and John returned to Milacron to work on operating systems for their line of high-end machine-tool control systems. One of his early (and most interesting) assignments was the writing of the microcode for a new bit-slice architecture computer they developed for high-end control systems. Later he became the department's VAX systems manager and software development toolsmith. He developed and supported a configuration management system based on DEC's CMS and MMS tools that addressed Milacron's unique requirements to support similar code for multiple machine tool controls with many one-off variations, and then continue this support of each model for decades! In 1992 he moved from the Engineering department to the divisional IT department as manager of LAN networking and PC's. This lasted until 1999 when the division terminated his department and him along with it in a downsizing move. He then worked as a consultant for several companies on VAX and PC management until his retirement in 2006. Since "consulting" is another word for "not working full time", he made use of much of his spare time to support the computer and phone systems for a local service ministry that was supported by 35 churches in eastern Cincinnati, and served on the board of this group until he moved to mid-coast Maine in 2008. He is now enjoying his hobbies of hiking, skiing, remodeling work, working on his cars, and serving in various church ministries.</p> |   |