



# Whatever Happened to Richard Ragan

Then	Capsule Summary	Now
	<p>Born in: Georgia  Grew Up in: Tallahassee, FL  High School: Leon High School  Undergraduate Degree: BS Mathematics with minors in Physics and Philosophy, Florida State University, 1967  Entered Purdue: Fall, 1967  Purdue Degrees:  - MS CS Jan 1969;  Lived/Worked in: Sunnyvale CA, San Jose, CA</p>	
Purdue Highlights	Career Highlights	
<p>Richard came to Purdue in Fall 1967 to get a CS graduate degree. There were few schools offering MS in Computer Science in those days and Purdue beat out Iowa State and Georgia Tech.</p> <p>Richard's undergraduate BS in Mathematics at FSU was augmented with all the CS he could self acquire by working for the Computer Center. Since FSU had a CDC 6400, Richard knew it in depth. He expected to encounter an IBM 360 at Purdue but was delighted to find a CDC 6500 where he could dive right in.</p> <p>Although on a NASA scholarship, pitching in and helping out at the Computer Center was already part of his background.</p> <p>Richard knuckled down for four straight semesters in order to graduate in January 1969. It would have been nice to enjoy more time at Purdue with so many good friends but the political climate did not favor remaining a graduate student so it was time to move on to industry.</p> <p>Despite the short time, many great times were had with Purdue friends who remain forever friends.</p>	<p>Richard's first job after graduation was with Control Data Corporation in Palo Alto, California working on the FORTAN compiler to implement CDC's first global optimizing code generator. Over time subsequent releases of the compiler led to work on the main code generator, runtime libraries and math libraries. In conjunction with the compiler development work, Richard was the corporate member of the ANSI FORTRAN X3J3 Standards committee. As part of X3J3, he helped develop the ANSI FORTRAN 77 standard and the Fortran 90 standard. In doing so, he got to work with some memorable folks including Betty Holberton, one of the first six programmers ever (all women). He was also the corporate representative to the domestic and international CDC user groups, a role that took him to a lot of interesting places.</p> <p>Moving on from active compiler development in the 80's, Richard took a System Design role for CDC's compilers and languages for the evolution from the 60-bit word architecture of the CDC 6600 to the Cyber 180 product line with a 64-bit architecture.</p> <p>By the early 90's, CDC was getting out of the hardware business and moving to a consulting model. An existing strong mail product became the basis for his designing and delivering email and X.500 directory solutions for Bank of America, Siemens and Kaiser. 1995 also saw this new thing called the Web with Mozilla and Netscape 1.0. He built a CGI-Perl document management system with browser-based search and retrieval. CDC acquired Creative Internet Solutions and he joined them building server-side web solutions.</p> <p>In early 2004, Richard joined eBay to do XSL work for generating their web pages. In 2005, he joined a small internal team to build a new presentation infrastructure in Java. Within three years, 90% of all site traffic used the new Java infrastructure. In 2011, he moved to PayPal, a subsidiary of eBay, to build out a new presentation infrastructure based on Java and JSP. He is now working on another new presentation infrastructure based on node.js and JavaScript.</p>	