



John Ousterhout

GRFP Recipient: 1976

Undergraduate Institution:
B.S. 1975, Yale University

Graduate Institution:
Ph.D. 1980, Carnegie Mellon
University

Graduate Field of Study:
Computer Science

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Current Position:
Professor (Research),
Department of Computer
Science, Stanford University

RESEARCH INTERESTS //

John Ousterhout's computer science expertise ranges from academic research to founding his own start-up companies including Electric Cloud and Scriptics. Ousterhout's work spans many topics including programming languages, operating systems, software infrastructure and storage systems. His most recent work focuses on RAMCloud, a new class of storage that is expected to be two to three times faster than existing storage systems. Ousterhout has advised over 10 Ph.D. students through their dissertations.

A FOND MEMORY FROM MY EXPERIENCE AS A FELLOW //

The highlight of my NSF Graduate Fellowship was the opportunity to lead the development of an operating system for the world's first large-scale multiprocessor computer. This computer, called Cm*, was a unique prototype, but it allowed us to develop techniques that became widely used over the ensuing decades as multiprocessors became more and more common. Until recently, commercial multiprocessors have contained only a few processors, but multi-core computers are now beginning to approach the scale of Cm*.

During my NSF Graduate Fellowship I developed the belief that Computer Science research projects can do more than just create interesting ideas; they can also produce working software systems that can be used by other people, and these systems can amplify the impact of the research. This philosophy of combining research with the creation of usable software has been a guiding force in my career.

AWARDS/ HONORS //

- National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator (1984-1989)
- Distinguished Teaching Award, University of California, Berkeley (1985)
- ACM Grace Murray Hopper Award (1987)
- ACM Software System Award (1997)
- Member, National Academy of Engineering (2001-)

POSITION PROFILE //

- 1980-1994 Professor of Computer Science, University of California, Berkeley
- 1994-1998 Distinguished Engineer, Sun Microsystems Laboratories
- 1998-2000 Founder and CEO, Scriptics Corporation
- 2002-2007 Founder and CEO, Electric Cloud
- 2008- Professor (Research), Department of Computer Science, Stanford University

