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retroTECH Oral History Project

Georgia Institute of Technology Library,
retroTECH and Special Collections and Archives

Purpose

You are providing information for use with the *retroTECH* Oral History Project. The purpose of the *retroTECH* Oral History Project is to explore and document how technology impacts the lives of Georgia Tech community members. The interviews are a part of the *retroTECH* Oral History Project and will be accessioned for preservation and access via *retroTECH*'s website and the Georgia Tech Library's Archives and Special Collections, which maintains the historical records of the Institute.

Procedures

If you agree to participate, you will complete a brief [background survey](#) in advance of your interview. The information you provide in your survey response will help us prepare for your interview.

On the day of your interview, you will sign an Oral History Interview Agreement that transfers copyright ownership of the interview to the Georgia Institute of Technology, which will make the interview recording and transcript available for reuse using a Creative Commons license. A blank copy of the agreement is included at the end of this document for your reference. You will receive a copy of your signed agreement after your interview.

During the interview, you will be asked a series of questions, which may include questions about your background, education, career, and activities. An outline of the types of questions you may be asked is included in this document for your reference. **You will have the right not to answer any questions that you may feel uncomfortable answering and you may terminate the interview at any time.**

The interview will be digitally recorded and transcribed. The recording and transcript will be made available to the public via the *retroTECH* website and Georgia Tech Archives and Special Collections.

Oral History Interview Agreement (Deed of Gift)

As a participant in the project, you will need to sign an Oral History Interview Agreement. This agreement officially transfers your interview to the Georgia Tech Archives and Special Collections. This means that you relinquish any claim to legal title, literary property, and copyright for your interview. You and anyone else will be able to view and use the interview. Any special needs or concerns should be discussed with the project moderator before completing the release form.

Risks

Your participation is voluntary; there are no foreseeable risks involved in taking part in this interview.

Benefits

Your ideas and accomplishments will be preserved indefinitely, and the benefits of your interview to the Georgia Tech and research communities will be immeasurable.

Participation

Participation is voluntary, and you may end the interview at any time without discrimination or retribution towards you.

Confidentiality

The interview **WILL NOT** be considered confidential. Your interview **WILL** contain your name and other personal identifiable information. In addition, your interview will become available to the public.

Time

The average length of an interview is approximately one hour. However, the interview may be longer or shorter.

Questions

If you have questions about the *retroTECH* Oral History Project or the Georgia Tech Archives and Special Collections please contact the project moderator, Wendy Hagenmaier (wendy.hagenmaier@library.gatech.edu).

Interview Outline and Sample Questions

Introduction: The following interview is conducted as part of the Georgia Institute of Technology's *retroTECH* Oral History Project. Today is [date]. The interview is taking place at [place/location of interview]. The interviewer is _____. The interviewee(s) is/are _____. [Interviewee's name] [Statement about his/her/their current title/organizational affiliation]. Thank you for participating in this project.

Background

- Where were you born and where did you grow up?
- Please tell me about your education and/or career experiences.
- What are your interests and/or hobbies?
- Please describe a significant person or event that influenced who you are today.

Initial

- Please describe how you initially became involved with the Georgia Institute of Technology.
- What specific programs, units, or research initiatives at Georgia Tech are you participating in? What is your role in these Georgia Tech programs?
- How have your interactions with these programs affected your work or personal life?

Specific

- For Donors of Items
 - When did you acquire or create [the item]?
 - What is the story behind [the item]?
 - How have you used the item?
 - Why have you held onto the item since you acquired it / why is it significant to you?
 - How do you imagine the item might be used in the future?
- For Software Creators
 - What was the purpose/function of [name of the software you created/used]?
 - Describe the technology context in which you [created/used] the software.
 - When did you start [creating/using] the software?
 - What was being developed in the industry at the time in terms of hardware and software?
 - What hardware and software were you using at the time?
 - What motivated you to [create/use/promote] this software?
 - Did you collaborate with others in [creating/using] the software? If so, what were their roles in the [production/use] of the software, and what was yours?
 - Can you tell me about the ownership status of the software? Who created it, who owns it?
 - What was the competitive environment like in terms of the creation of this software?
 - Who was the software designed for? Who would you say was the prime customer?
 - When was the software introduced to users?
 - How was the software received by users upon its introduction?
 - [if interviewee created the software:] What technologies did you use to create the software?
 - [if interviewee used the software but didn't create it:] How did you use the software?
 - How do you think this software could be used today? Has this software inspired other software?
 - Does the software still exist?
 - If so, what hardware or other software does it require to run?
 - Where does the copy of the software currently reside? (in what format, where stored)
 - How would you describe the experience of working to create/discover a new piece of software?

- How do you imagine the software might be used in the future?

Conclusion

- How did [the topics we've discussed] affect your personal growth?
- Are there any further experiences that you would like to share?

Thank you for participating in the *retroTECH* Oral History Project and sharing your story with us.



Oral History Interview Agreement

The purpose of the project is to gather and preserve historical documentation for the *retroTECH* Oral History Project by means of the video recorded interview.

I, _____, understand that the recording will become the property of Georgia Institute of Technology (a unit of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia) (“Georgia Tech”), and it will be made available for educational, scholarly, and research use. I understand such uses traditionally include term papers, theses, dissertations, articles, books, and websites, and any additional uses may include exhibits, radio and television programs, films, and other forms of public display and dissemination. In addition, I understand researchers may view the recording and transcript online and reuse them. In all events, I understand that Georgia Tech will care for the recording in a manner which will provide preservation and access to researchers.

Having received and understood the above information, I hereby give the recording and/or transcript of this interview to Georgia Tech. I also assign the copyrights and other related rights in the content of the recording and/or transcript to Georgia Tech.

Interviewer (signature)

Interviewee (signature)

Date: _____

Date: _____

Name of Interviewer

Name of Interviewee

Accepted for Georgia Tech _____

Date: _____