

## **Rich Helms**

[rich@richhelms.com](mailto:rich@richhelms.com)

Detailed resume: <https://richhelms.com>

LinkedIn Profile: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/richhelms>

## **SUMMARY**

Rich is a seasoned software developer with over 35 years of experience including Research and Development (R&D), sales and marketing. He spent 22 years in various positions at IBM and two years as the Vice President of R&D for Electronics Workbench in Toronto. From 2000 to 2009, Rich owned and managed Rume Interactive Canada, which was sold to Verisk in 2009 and rebranded as Enabl-u Technologies. Rich has run the Canadian operation since the transfer of ownership until his retirement in September 2013.

His credentials range from deep technical work (five patents in hardware and software) to running R&D. Former chair IBM Microelectronics Canada Lab Patent Review Board. Expert in WordPress plug-in development. Rich has created five generations of eLearning platforms. Designed and wrote full-text search engine including crawling support for large-scale case management system. In 2010 co-authored “Amazon SimpleDB Developer Guide” for Packt Publishing.

“It’s never been done” is a call to action for Rich. He has built a career on breaking new grounds in the computer field. In 1986 he developed CARES (Computer Assisted Recovery Enhancement System) for the Metropolitan Toronto Police. CARES was the first computer system in the world for aging missing children.

## **Employment Highlights**

- Enabl-u Technologies Canada Inc.
  - Verisk Crime Analytics Canada Inc.
  - (Uxbridge, ON) (November 2009 – retired Sept 2013)
- Rume Interactive Canada Inc. (Uxbridge, ON) (July 2000 to October 2009)
  - Chief Technology Officer – Corporate
  - President – Canadian company
- Write Stuff Writing Services (Sunderland, ON) (October 1999 to July 2000)
  - Website and advertising development
- Electronics Workbench (October 1997 to October 1999)

- Vice-President Research and Development
- IBM Canada Limited (April 1976 to September 1997)
  - IBM Microelectronics Canada Lab Chief Information Officer (1997)
  - IBM Microelectronics Canada Lab Patent Review Board Chair (1995, 1996)
  - Researcher (January 1992 to February 1993) On-loan to University of Toronto
  - Chief Image Technology Architect (September 1988 to July 1990) (Somers, NY, USA)

## eLearning Development

**1980** – Invented the programming language *RICH/AIM* for writing on-line education and demonstrations. Enabled running demo presentations on IBM 5280, S/34 and S/38. The language and demonstrations written with the language were credited with saving the IBM Corporation 650 man years worldwide (\$60 million US). This work was recognized with the second highest honour that IBM awards for technical work.

**1981** – Invented prototype software based on AIM/RICH that became the IBM InfoWindow system used for multimedia education and kiosks. This was IBM's first entry into the multimedia market.

**1993** – Led team that authored "*Experience C++ – A Multimedia Tutorial*" CD-ROM. Improved productivity of development five-fold over conventional approaches. This was the first CD-ROM content title that IBM Canada wrote. The purpose of the CD was to teach C++ and object-oriented programming. The first edition sold out in two weeks and was into third printing in three months. Received three awards, two from IBM, including "one of the top five publication innovations in the IBM Corporation for 1994", and one from the Society for Technical Communications.

**2000** – Created Learn it Script (LiS) for online education. LiS was driven by two key needs. First to support high quality video without streaming and second fast authoring to lower the authoring costs. Video was supported on a local CD or server while the course resided on a web server. Host support enabled lower maintenance costs while support for local video eliminated the need for high speed connections. A dial-up connection performed like high speed. Authoring was 10X quicker than available competition. Supported AICC.

**2008** – Created EducatePress (EP) for online education. EducatePress built on the concepts in LiS but support multi-site authoring and testing. EducatePress expanded browser support to all popular PC/Mac browsers as well as iPad/iPhone/iPod. EducatePress also supports SCORM integration. EP language has grown to over 70 commands. Supports SCORM and detailed student tracking.

**2011** – Converted several books to Amazon Kindle format with full capabilities including chapter and audio reading support. Fluent in Apple iBooks Author.

**2012** – Hyper-scalable eLearning platforms with thousands of students taking a course concurrently.

## CARES

CARES (Computer Assisted Recovery Enhancement System), a computer system for aging missing children announced on July 4, 1986, was a joint project between the Metropolitan Toronto Police and IBM Canada Lab. CARES was the first computer-based child-aging system in the world.

The key creators of CARES were Rich Helms and Bill Groves of the IBM Canada Lab and Bette Clarke, Metro Toronto police artist. Bette worked with a Toronto medical research team to learn how people grow and age. Bette then developed growth algorithms that Rich and the IBM team turned into computer image editing software. Rich Helms' CARES work was recognized with a Metro Toronto Police Appreciation Plaque in December 1992. CARES was featured on Top Cops (US television show) in January 1992.

## Patent Portfolio

- IBM Microelectronics Canada Lab Patent Review Board Chair (1995, 1996)
- In 1996, microelectronics group created 33% of all IBM Canada patents with 75 people while in 1995, 20% with 70 people.

## 3 Canadian and 2 US Patents

- Surround Sound Driver Architecture with Multiple Sound Cards. 1994. US Patent 5,630,175 (PDF) – May 13, 1997, Surround Sound System. Canadian Patent 2,132,763 – March 30, 1999.
- An Imaging System Using a Data Transmission Light Source for Subject Illumination. Canadian Patent CA 2,194,027 – December 4, 2001.
- Dual Mode Collimated Communications Transceiver. 1996. Canadian Patent 2,194,024. – January 30, 2001.
- Multi-simulator Co-simulation. 1999. US Patent 6,560,572 (PDF) – May 6, 2003.

## SimpleDB Book

- In 2010 Prabhakar Chaganti and Rich Helms wrote “*Amazon SimpleDB Developer Guide*” for Packt Publishing. Available from Packt Publishing, Amazon and other book retailers.

## Education

- B.A. from Clarion University of Pennsylvania (1971)
  - Major: Mathematics (in 1971 the computer belonged to the math department)
  - Charter member of Lambda Gamma Sigma - the Clarion chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon - National Honorary Mathematics Fraternity
- Teachers Certificate from Hamilton Teachers College (1974) (Closed 1979)