
Subject: David Stern Leaves RSI

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 18 Dec 2001 16:49:32 GMT

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Folks,

I just received public confirmation of rumors I have been hearing this week that David Stern has finally cashed in his chips and has left RSI.

David was the least likely CEO I have ever known, always unassuming and unfailingly modest. I remember it driving me crazy on those occasions I would coax him out of his office to meet a big-deal client and try to seal a deal with some kind of a flash presentation to a VP. He would as likely be staring at the ceiling, (thinking about a program he was writing) than paying attention to the presentation. But, put him in front of a keyboard and it was magic. I never have seen a technical programmer yet who could resist his presentation of IDL.

David and I disagreed on just about everything when I worked for him. We were really two people on opposite ends of some kind of continuum. But I loved my job because David always gave me the opportunity to do what I thought was right and what I was passionate about. I know many others came to RSI for exactly the same reason. The five years I worked for him were the best five years of my professional life.

I don't know what David has planned, but somehow I can't picture him sitting on a beach. In my mind he is always sitting in front of a computer, fingers flying, the collar of his shirt stuck in his mouth, puzzling out another problem.

IDL is a tremendous legacy, David. You done real, real good. Now go enjoy that retirement or whatever it is you want to do. I'm available if you want to play tennis! :-)

Cheers,

David

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David W. Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155
