

Edward D. Lazowska

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Ed Lazowska holds the Bill & Melinda Gates Chair in Computer Science in the Department of Computer Science & Engineering at the University of Washington.

Lazowska received his A.B. from Brown University in 1972 and his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in 1977. He has been at the University of Washington since that time, with the exception of a sabbatical year split between the DEC Systems Research Center and Stanford University, and another spent at the University of California, San Diego.

Lazowska's research and teaching concern the design, implementation, and analysis of high-performance computing and communication systems. For the first ten years of his career, Lazowska's principal focus was computer system performance: the development of effective performance evaluation techniques, and the use of these techniques to gain insight about significant computer systems and computer system design issues. Lazowska then turned his attention to the design and implementation of distributed and parallel computer systems – work that yielded a number of widely-embraced approaches to kernel and system design in areas such as thread management, high-performance local and remote communication, load sharing, cluster computing, and the effective use of the underlying architecture by the operating system. Nineteen Ph.D. students and twenty-three Masters students have completed their degrees working with him.

Lazowska is a Member of the National Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery, a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was selected to deliver the 1996 University of Washington Annual Faculty Lecture, and to receive the 1998 University of Washington Outstanding Public Service Award. He chaired the UW Department of Computer Science & Engineering from 1993-2001; under his leadership, the Department received the inaugural University of Washington Brotman Award for Instructional Excellence, four CSE faculty members were recognized with the University of Washington Distinguished Teaching Award, one with the University of Washington Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award, and eight with Sloan Research Fellowships.

In the past five years Lazowska has undertaken a significant public service role. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Computing Research Association, which represents North America's academic programs, industrial laboratories, and professional societies concerned with computing research. He served as Chair of the CRA Board from 1997-2001, and currently chairs CRA's Government Affairs Committee. He serves on the National Research Council's Computer Science and Telecommunications Board, and on the NRC Committee on Improving Learning with Information Technology and Committee on Science and Technology for Countering Terrorism – Panel on Information Technology; he was a member of the NRC "Brooks/Sutherland Committee" which reviewed the multi-agency High Performance Computing and Communications program. From 1995-2001 he served on (and in 1998 and 1999 he chaired) the National Science Foundation's Advisory Committee for Computer and Information Science and Engineering. From 1998-2001 he served on the DARPA Information Science and Technology Study Group. He is a member of the Microsoft Research Technical Advisory Board, and of the ACM Council. Regionally, he serves on the Boards of Directors of the Washington Software Alliance and of the Technology Alliance, on the State of Washington Information Services Board, and as a board member or technical advisor to a number of high-tech companies and venture firms. He also is a Trustee of Lakeside School, a co-educational independent school in Seattle.