

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

**LESLIE L. VADASZ**

Transcript of Interviews  
Conducted by

David C. Brock and Christophe Lécuyer

at

Los Altos, California and Sonoma, California

on

15 March, 19 April, and 7 June 2005

(With Subsequent Corrections and Additions)

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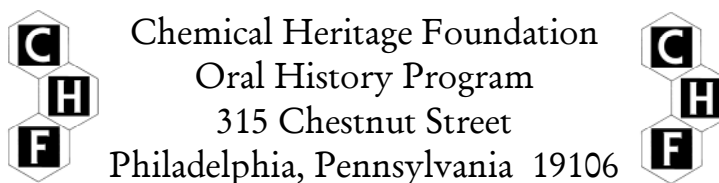
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## LESLIE L. VADASZ

1936 Born in Budapest, Hungary on 12 September

### Education

1961 B.S.E.E., electrical engineering, McGill University  
1990 AMP, Harvard Business School

### Professional Experience

1961-1964 Transitron Corporation, Wakefield, Massachusetts  
Technical Staff, Research and Development

1964-1968 Fairchild Semiconductor, Palo Alto, California  
Technical Staff, Research and Development

1968-1972 Intel Corporation, Santa Clara, California  
Technical Staff, Research and Development

1972-1975 Director, Engineering

1975-1979 Vice President

1976-1977 Assistant General Manager, Microcomputer Components Division

1977-1979 General Manager, Microcomputer Components Division

1979-1991 Senior Vice President

1979-1991 Director, Corporate Strategic Staff

1986-2002 General Manager, Systems Group

1988-2002 Member, Board of Directors

1991-2003 Executive Vice President

2002-present Director Emeritus, Board of Directors

1991-2003 Intel Capital, Santa Clara, California  
President

1991 Harvard Business School, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
Lecturer, System Group

2003 Lecturer, Internet Law Program

2003-present ZettaCore Inc., Englewood, Colorado  
Member, Board of Directors

## Honors

1977	Elected Fellow, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
1991-1996	Member, National Research Council Computer Science and Telecommunications Board
1997-2002	Member, Presidential Advisory Committee for Information Technology

## ABSTRACT

**Leslie L. Vadasz** begins the first interview by describing his childhood in Budapest during World War II. Vadasz developed an early interest in mathematics and literature, and began an undergraduate mechanical engineering program before continuing in solid state physics at McGill University in Montreal. Vadasz worked on metal oxide semiconductor transistors at Transitron Corporation before joining Fairchild Semiconductor, where he helped develop the silicon gate process. In the second interview, Vadasz details the early efforts to produce memory devices at Intel Corporation, including erasable programmable read-only memory. Vadasz continues with the transition of Intel Corporation into a divisionalized structure and international extensions, at which time he became Vice President. Vadasz recounts his role as general manager of the microcomputer components division and its interactions with the semiconductor industry in the third interview. Vadasz began serving on the Board of Directors in 1988 and describes its place in assisting Intel management. He also explains the foundation of Intel Capital. Vadasz concludes the interview with remarks on the importance of technical knowledge in both developmental and managerial work.

## INTERVIEWERS

**David C. Brock** is a senior research fellow with the Center for Contemporary History and Policy of the Chemical Heritage Foundation. As an historian of science and technology, he specializes in oral history, the history of instrumentation, and the history of semiconductor science, technology, and industry. Brock has studied the philosophy, sociology, and history of science at Brown University, the University of Edinburgh, and Princeton University (respectively and chronologically). His most recent publication is *Understanding Moore's Law: Four Decades of Innovation* (Philadelphia: Chemical Heritage Press), 2006, which he edited and to which he contributed.

**Christophe Lécuyer** is research historian at the Chemical Heritage Foundation. He holds a Ph.D. in history from Stanford University. He has published extensively on manufacturing districts, university-industry relations, and the history of electronics and scientific instrumentation. He was a fellow of the Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology and taught at MIT, Stanford University, and the University of Virginia.

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