

# Alan Payne – Mini CV

## Part 1

I graduated from what was then the University of London College of Computer Science where I specialised in Systems Analysis and Operational Research but had not yet received my results in the summer of 1970 when I applied to UCSL, amongst others, as part of their graduate recruitment programme. (I got a BSc in Physics and an MSc in Computer Science as it happened) Myself and Brian Kellett were accepted.

I started in Ranald Bain's department. I was put in a team working for Mike Dalton on the "IMIS" system which was written in Mark IV (which I had never heard of) but spanned a number of Unilever establishments across Europe (Port Sunlight, Vlardigen Duiven, St Denis are ones I remember). Other people on the team were Dave Culcheth, Geoff Sullivan, Ian Ferguson and another Mike whose second name I cannot remember. It was a great start to my working career and I thoroughly enjoyed being part of the team.

Unfortunately, the IT marketplace hit the skids and UCSL, like many similar companies, were found in the position of having to cut back. As the last in I was the first to be offered redundancy. I remember Ranald saying to me, as he gave me the bad news, that if I had got up and punched him he would not have been surprised. I didn't and UCSL worked very hard to find me another job outside of Unilever. I will always be grateful for that.

As it happened, Peter Davidson in Finance was looking at having developed a project management system to keep track of projects within UCSL. I was asked if I would be interested in joining the accounts department and developing it in Mark IV. I accepted almost immediately because I had come to love the company in the short time I was there. The project was called PACE and I worked on it for the following 12 months or so until I left UCSL, this time of my own volition, in 1972.

I can honestly say that the experience I gained in the short time I was at UCSL stood me in good stead (and continues to do so) for the rest of my career.

## Part 2

I left UCSL to join the mail order company, Freeman's. It turned out to be a mistake and I joined Petrofina, the Belgian Oil Company, as an analyst/programmer, after about 6 months.

I was at Petrofina for 6 very enjoyable years until ambition prompted me to move to Burroughs Machines Ltd, initially as an account manager but later I moved into Marketing.

Ten years later, I was a European Marketing Manager when I left what was then Unisys to join Wang as UK Business Development Manager.

As we all know Wang did not survive and after two years I joined Rank Xerox which later dropped the Rank and became just Xerox. I was with Xerox for 12 fantastic years.

My final job was Vice President and General Manager of Document Solutions, before taking early retirement at the ripe old age of 54.

I then joined a small consultancy called The Salamander Organization Ltd, started by a close friend, and am still there after 9 years. I now spend three days a week working for Salamander and two days a week working for my own company where I am currently acting as non-executive director for a small consultancy I helped to get started some years ago. In my spare time I managed to marry a New Zealand girl and have two children, a girl who is now 35 and still living at home, and a boy, 29, who is happily married and expecting their own child next January.

Grandparenthood here I come. Somewhere in the middle of all that I took an MBA at the Open Business School and I guess in the process proved that you can teach an old dog new tricks.

I can honestly say that UCSL laid the foundations of what has been a very enjoyable career with some great experiences, terrific highlights and great times.

In my "spare" time I play golf and holiday in Spain.

Alan