

David M. West, Ph.D.

Software Developer, Mentor, Coach, Designer, Author, Educator, and aspiring polymath

As a computing professional, Dave has held job titles ranging from Computer Operator to Chief Information Officer.

Most of his career centered around domain analysis, systems design, mentoring and coaching, project leadership, and management.

The only times he was paid to code, it was in Assembler, COBOL, and Smalltalk. He has led and mentored teams working in C++, Java, and JavaScript (with HTML and CSS). He has coached and led teams working with traditional methodologies, but primarily with Agile approaches. His work has been international in scope: India, Brazil, The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Canada, and the United States.

With regard systems and software design, I have an excellent track record finding elegant, simple and business supporting designs. Two examples:

- 1- a legal form design company employing 50 full-time attorneys to review changes in the law, and 50 full-time programmers to change the code base in response. My design resulted in a modifiable system and code base that required 10 programmers to maintain.
- 2- A large insurance company planning a 100 million, 3 year, project to redesign and develop a system to support commercial insurance, my design reduced the cost to 10 million and 1 year of development.

David is an author: two books, *Object Thinking* and *Design Thinking*, and dozens of professional papers in the area of objects and Agile development. He has organized professional conferences including: Current Object Practice and Experience (COPE and COPE 96) both with more than 500 attendees; and was Co-organizer of two GuruPLOP (Pattern Languages of Programming) conferences, one in Bangalore and the other in Chennai, India.

He has used his writing and communication skills helping others; acting as editor, shepherd, and collaborator for more than fifty papers and conference presentations.

Dr. West has been a full-professor at three universities: The University of St. Thomas in Minnesota (the World's largest graduate software development program, with 900 full and part time Master's degree students), the University of New Mexico, and New Mexico Highlands University.

He developed innovative and award-winning programs at all three schools. He developed the Object Curriculum and founded the Object Lab at the University of St. Thomas. He developed a novel, apprenticeship-based program at New Mexico Highlands University that set high standards for inclusiveness and diversity (75% minority, 50% women). At the University of St. Thomas, he was Director of Distance Learning and helped establish their on-line programs.

David's undergraduate education was in Asian Philosophy with emphasis on Buddhism, Taoism, and mystical traditions including Sufism and the Hermetic philosophy that triggered the scientific revolution in Europe. He has graduate degrees in Computer Science (MS), Cultural Anthropology (MA), and Cognitive Science (Ph.D.).

As a person, Dave is open, collaborative, and collegial; with excellent communication and interpersonal skills. He is a natural Coach. He firmly believes that individual achievement derives from the collective success and accomplishments of those with whom he works.

As an aspiring polymath, David has read over 15,000 books and his current working library has 3500 volumes in subjects as varied as Asian Philosophy, Cultural Anthropology, Science, Design, Business, and Computing. This varied background provides David with a unique perspective while allowing him to communicate effectively with cross-disciplinary teams and specialists in multiple aspects of business and technology.