

# Telecommunications Systems Management Alumni Spotlight



**Name:** Cory Harrison

**MSU Degree:** TSM 2000- The first graduate from the TSM program.

**Home Town:** Dixon, KY

**Current Town:** Paducah, KY

**Current Job:** Computer Services, Inc. - Software Engineer



## **Current Job Description:**

I work as a web developer but primarily only on the server side. Over the last 15 years I have built a billing system for internet usage based on packet captures, a self-service bank kiosk that could initiate balance lookups and transfers without bothering a teller, built and continue to service our SecureConnect intranet/portal product, am responsible for database administration in my department, server software configuration, and I build web applications to support other departments. Nowadays I primarily utilize Microsoft SQL Server, ColdFusion, Visual Basic, and various Javascript frameworks.

## **Previous Jobs held (since graduation):**

Harrison Communications – President. Utilized my electronics background to work as a consultant and contractor for large electronics and semiconductor companies such as Raytheon, Tyco, Stellex, Texas Instruments, and Filtronic in England. I built a large database that stored data for chips that were used in military communications and defense based projects. I would run calculations then provide web-enabled graphs of how any given chip would behave given certain input parameters. I was also one of the first people to sell heavy equipment online and influenced how things were sold in certain sectors. I built the search engine for some medical jobs sites, allowing doctors and physical therapists to search for jobs within a certain distance from any zip code.

## **Family & Personal:**

My wife and I got married in college, she became an attorney and we have three kids. We live a country lifestyle on a 23-acre mini-farm, while still being only 15 minutes away from a good tech job. I embrace simple country-boy hobbies that are seemingly the antithesis of modern technology in order to stay grounded and avoid burnout, such as shooting sports, raising chickens, tractor work, and mountain biking.

**TSM Q & A:**

**What did you do for your internship and how did it benefit you?**

Accuride Corporation – Software Developer. Managed AS/400 backups, built a swipe card based seniority management system for union usage, built their first intranet. I got a first-hand look of how networks were built, how union shops operate, the importance of backups and data archives from a legal perspective, and what the social aspect of an I.T. shop was really like.

**Since graduation, what is the most exciting thing you have been able to experience in your work?**

Knowing that software I wrote was used during the design or redesign of things like military satellites and Patriot missiles.

**What class(es) were the most beneficial to your career so far?**

With CSI it would be higher level programming classes and management, not that I'm a manager, but it does give you some business sense. With my consulting work, electronics and communication electronics. At the time there was hardly anybody who knew anything about both electrical engineering and also internet development so it was a perfect fit.

**What activities outside your classwork were most valuable to your career?**

Entrepreneur based activities. I love to start, dream about, promote, and help others start small businesses. I have gained useful experience by engaging the marketplace on my own, both in terms of learning applicable skills and seeing how other companies operated.

**What is one piece of advice that you would give to current or future TSM students?**

Be flexible in regards to your exact career path, especially if you want to stay in this area. If you truly know your passion and are aware of the market especially if you don't mind to move, then go after it. However, the real world may prove to provide different opportunities than you expect, especially if you don't want to live in a big city. Keep your eyes open for opportunities and alternatives that are somewhat different than your current view of what your future job will be, including potentially doing something on your own. There are probably opportunities that you did not realize even existed.

For more information on Murray State University's Telecommunication Systems Management Program visit us on the web at [www.murraystate.edu/tsm](http://www.murraystate.edu/tsm), on Twitter at [@MurraystateTSM](https://twitter.com/MurraystateTSM) or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/MurrayStateTSM> or call us at 270.809.3987.