



NEW HAMPSHIRE SECTION  
SEVENTH ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET  
Thursday November 5, 2009

## Our Keynote Speaker is Randy Forgaard Cofounder of the Company that Created FrontPage



Randy Forgaard and Bill Gates

Randy will share with us the heady story of how he and Charles H. Ferguson founded Vermeer Technologies, Inc. in mid 1994. The Internet was starting to be adopted by businesses, and a new infrastructure called the World Wide Web was being formed. The big missing piece was a powerful, visual authoring tool for creating, maintaining, and administering whole web sites, and their individual pages.

By just about any measure - communications traffic, new web sites going up, downloads of web browsers and servers, new Internet subscriptions - the web was growing at 20% per month, the fastest growing phenomenon in economic history.

Vermeer shipped version 1.0 of FrontPage in October 1995. It was a great success, winning many industry awards, and praises from customers.

Two weeks before product release, and just 18 months since founding, Vermeer was approached separately on the same day by Netscape and Microsoft, both of whom wished to acquire the company. It was an agonizing decision. The start-up veterans at Vermeer had longed to go it alone with an IPO, but the two largest software companies in the Internet were intent on entering the same product space by acquiring FrontPage or creating similar products themselves. Vermeer agreed to be purchased by Microsoft, and it was unquestionably the right call. The \$130 million deal closed in January 1996, and the newly re-christened Microsoft FrontPage version 1.1 was released in April of that year.

This was the first big Internet acquisition, and the story made the cover of the Wall Street Journal and the other major newsweeklies, with about 50 million people seeing the story on network TV news. It was an exhilarating and intimidating high-speed roller coaster ride. The early history of the company was instructional and exciting.

**Biographical Information:**

Randy Forgaard was the co-founder and chief technology officer of Vermeer Technologies, Inc., original makers of the market-leading FrontPage web authoring software. Microsoft acquired Vermeer in January 1996, at which point Randy joined Microsoft as senior program manager and head of product planning for the product, renamed Microsoft FrontPage. Randy retired from Microsoft in March 1997. He is enjoying spending time with his family, and has a one-person firm called Illusionator that makes special effects for the haunted attraction industry.

Prior to Vermeer, Randy was one of the earliest employees and a key developer of the award-winning BeyondMail electronic mail system from Beyond Inc., and remained with the company until it was acquired by Banyan Systems, Inc. in February 1994. Before that, Randy held principal positions in three small software companies in the areas of securities trading systems, spreadsheet add-ins, and airline personnel scheduling.

Randy received his bachelors and masters degrees in computer science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1981 and 1984, respectively.

**Location:**

The Executive Court Banquet and Conference Center, Camelot Court Room, 13500 South Willow Street, Manchester, NH, Next to the Yard. For directions go to: <http://www.executivecourttinn.com/directions.php>

**Agenda:**

- 6:00 pm Social / Hors D'oeuvres
- 6:45 pm Buffet Dinner (Tenderloin Tips, Pan Roasted Stuffed Chicken, Tortellini and Shrimp)
- 7:30 pm Presentation of Awards
- 8:00 pm Keynote Speaker - Randy Forgaard

**Dress:** Business Attire

**Registration:**

**Seating is limited!** Send reservations to: [NHIEEE@aol.com](mailto:NHIEEE@aol.com). They **must be received by midnight, Monday October 26**. You will receive an emailed confirmation of your reservation. Make Checks payable to IEEE NH Section and send them to Donna Davis, IEEE NH Section Administrative Assistant, 34 Cohas Drive, Auburn, NH 03032.

- IEEE NH Section Member and Spouse or Significant Other: \$10.00 each.
- IEEE NH Student Branch Member and Spouse or Significant Other: \$10.00 each.
- All Others: \$30.00 each.

Name	Member No.	Email Address	Cost

Total

Please note any dietary restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

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