

stories from a computer scientist

yaw anokwa

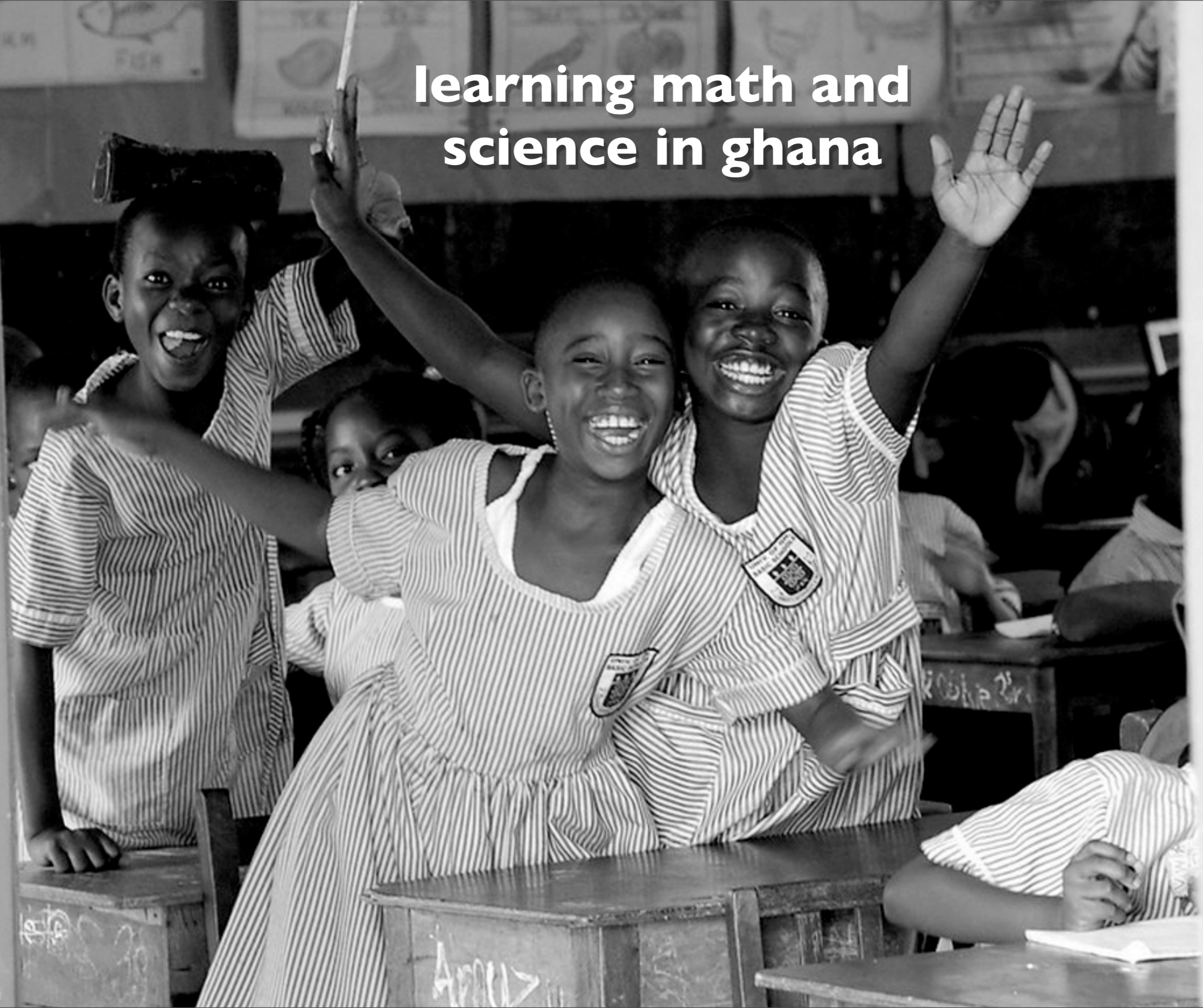
hey, my name is yaw and i am phd student in computer science at uw.

when helene asked me to come and speak with you, i didn't really have a good sense of what we could talk about. so i thought about it for some time and i think that my path to computer science is pretty unique.

it's not every day that someone born in ghana ends up in seattle doing computer science. so i've put together six slides that cover my journey into computer science. for each slide, i'll tell you a story from that time and at the end it should explain how i got to where i am today.

if you have questions at any point, just raise your hand we can go from there. cool?

learning math and science in ghana

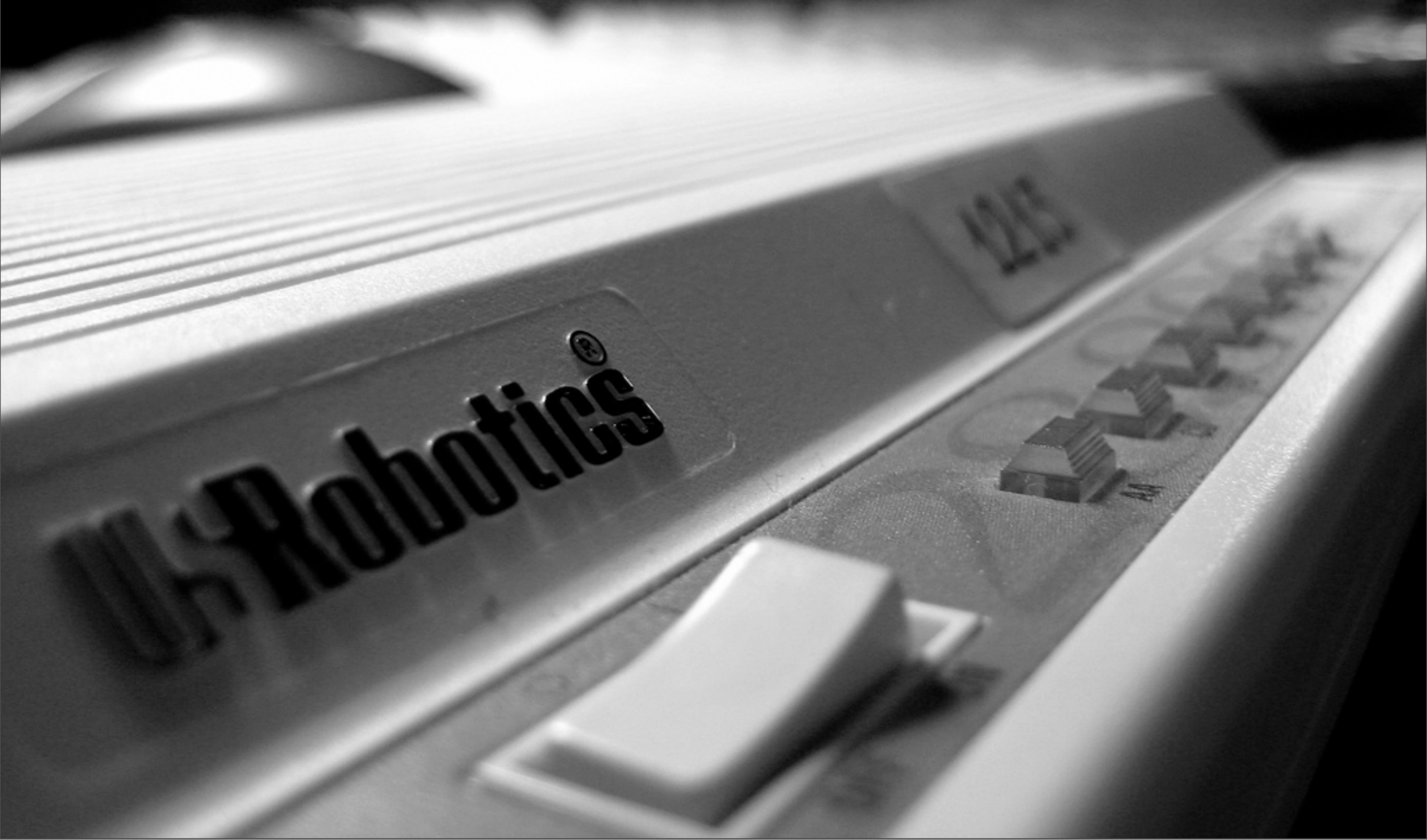


i was born in ghana in 1981 and lived there until 1990. during that time, i loved math and science and engineering. i didn't know what i really wanted to do, but i loved reading and taking things apart. even at a young age, they used to call me the professor. they also used to call me peanut head and chicken legs.

multiplication tables story

i left ghana when i was nine and moved to indiana. it was a huge culture shock. i had a british african accent and i was definitely not cool. didn't matter, i kept learning...

discovering computers, the internet, and the power of programming



we came to the us because my dad was a professor, and so i spent a lot of time on campus. one of the first things i discovered was this macintosh se computer. attached to was a modem. and a modem was how you'd get on the internet. the thing was super slow and my dad was broke, so after a few months of playing with it, i decided to get a new modem.

sweepstakes story

winning the modem changed how i saw computers. i now understood that with a little bit of work, i could be unstoppable. i went to high school with that attitude.



going from troublemaker to moneymaker

in high school everything changed. by my sophomore year, i was pretty much an expert in apple computers. i did this all in my spare time, just reading online and playing around. i could take pretty much any computer apart and put it all back together. it came naturally.

unfortunately, i was bored and started fooling around with the schools network trying to get everyone's passwords. in a few days, i had broken in and a few days later, i'd been caught. i didn't do anything bad, but the act of breaking in got me expelled. everyone i knew was mad at me.

my parents begged and pleaded and eventually i was let back in -- but on probation. i worked with the computer team to really secure the network and soon word was getting around that i was pretty good. i started getting calls from people and companies and so i started a consulting company.

i was 15 and i was easily making \$100 an hour. i graduated a few years later and decided to do computer science in college.



applying computing to newspapers, to drag racing, to weapons of war

i got to college when i was 18 and did both computer science and electrical engineering at the same time.

the combination of cs and ee meant that i understood both hardware and software. i started an online paper at the university and spent most of my time working on that. i also really got into cars and most cars have computers, so i used my computer knowledge to tweak the cars to go faster when i would drag race.

hondata drag racing story

when in my last years in college i was hired by a defense contractor to work on a number of projects. one of them was f-18 radar, the other was a submarine detector. i worked there after graduation and didn't really love the job, so i quit. i focused on my company for a year and decided to come to grad school



changing computing for everyone on the planet

grad school changed my life. instead of using computers, i was deciding what computers could be used for. i've done mostly computer science that changes the lives of poor people. these days i work for google to figure out ways we can use google technology on phones to help the poor.

a day in the life of a graduate student

frequently asked questions

yanokwa@cs.washington.edu

what is computer science?

what can i use computer science for?

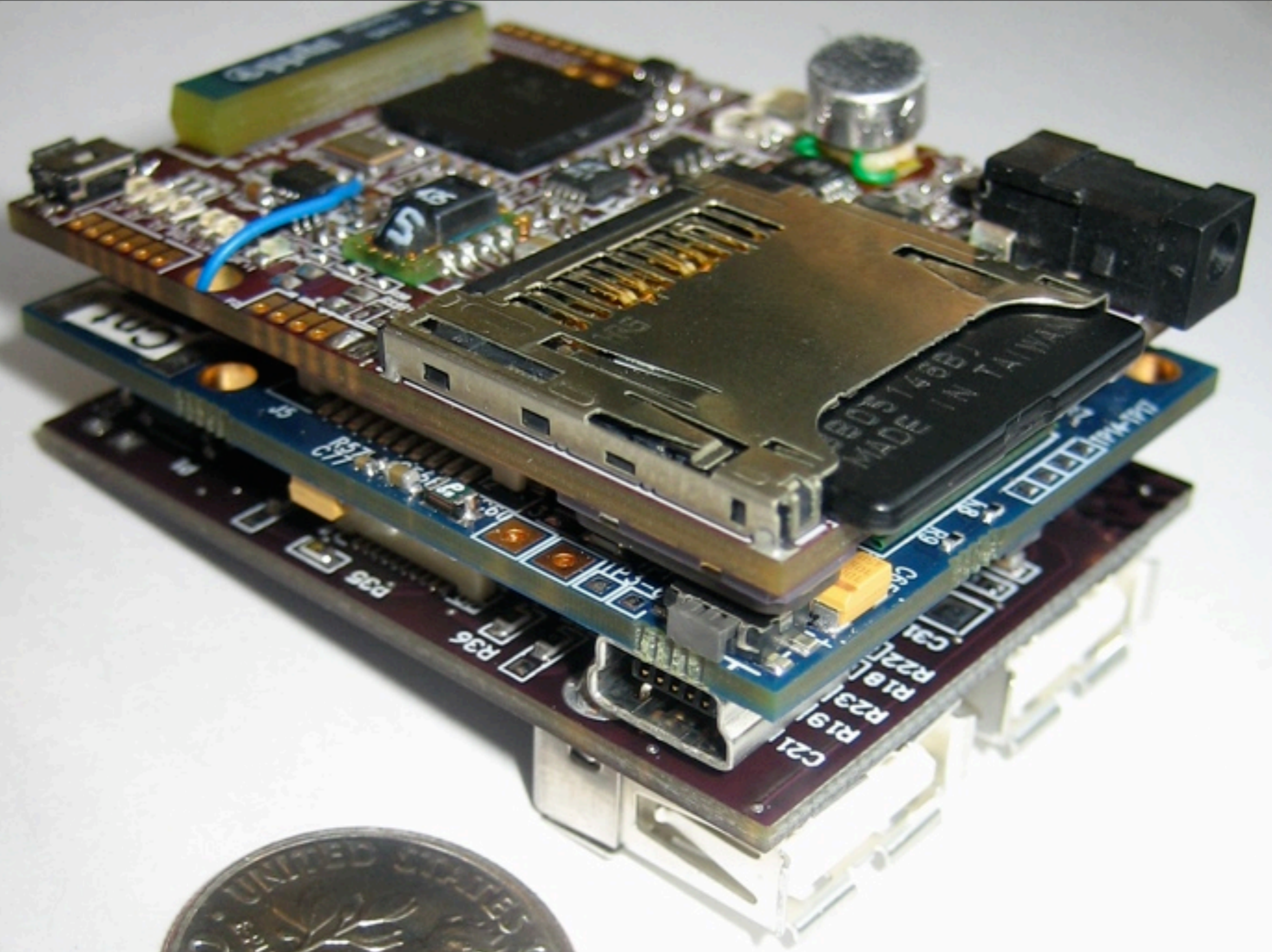
what are some of the cool projects that are going on at uw?

how hard is it to start a business with computer science?

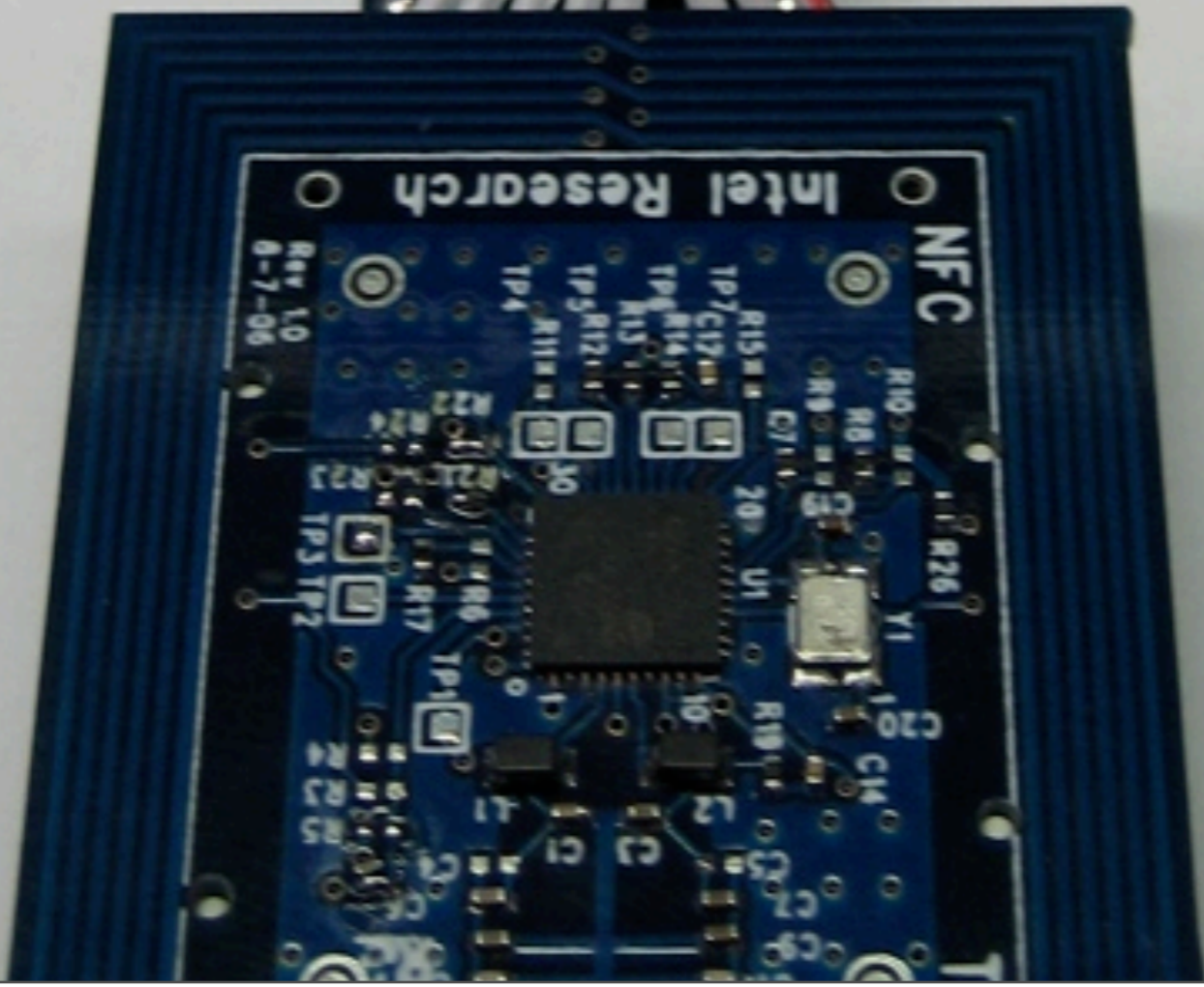
why do you like computer science?

what languages do you use the most?

how much money do you make as a computer scientist?







Scan! Choose an object or action.



NFC Poster.pdf



Glanceable Interfaces Paper.tex



Boondock Saints.mpg



Photo Tourism Demo.wmv



Eurotrip Photostream.url



AddressBook Sync.app



Remote Control.app



Ubicomp 2006 Photo Album.pics



Six months in rural Rwanda



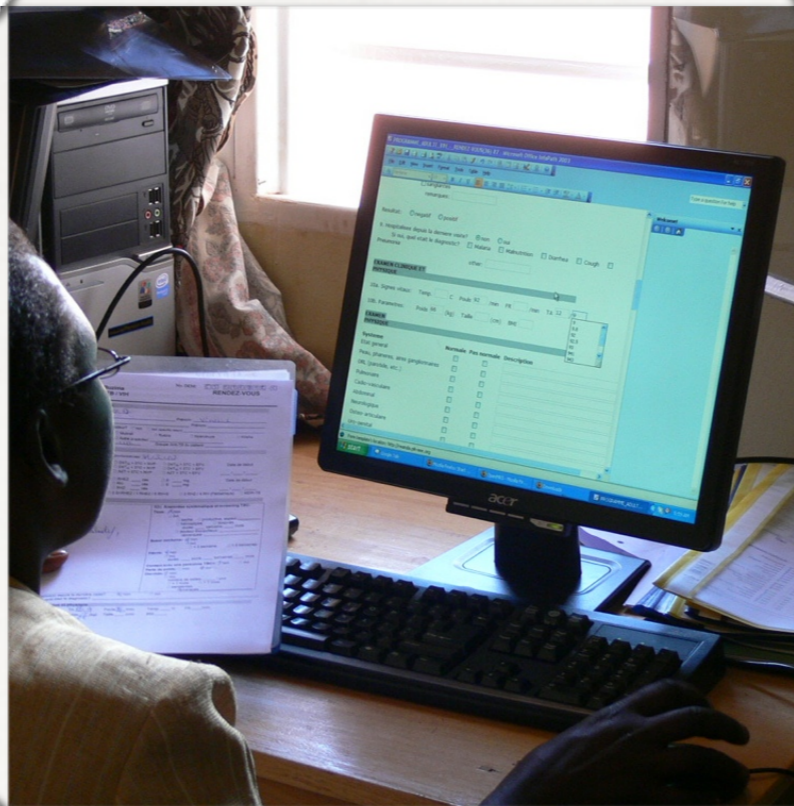
Deploying infrastructure



Training ICT staff



Observing clinical care



Managing data team

Sample Patient Back | Print

IMB ID **44003685-C**
 Gender **Female**
 Age **28 yrs** (~Jan 1, 1980)
 Last Visit **1 month ago** (Dec 14, 2007)
 Habimana Samuel, Mulindi

Diagnosis	Comments
X-RAY, CHEST	No previous diagnoses
CD4 IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS	

Adverse Effects	Date	Comments
ASH, SEVERE	Nov 15, 2006	
PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY	Nov 15, 2006	
ASH, MINOR	Nov 15, 2006	

Present Symptoms	Date
EIGHT LOSS	Sep 13, 2007

Drug Order	Dose	Frequency	Start Date	Stop Date	Comments
Zidovudine-40	1.0 tab(s)	2/day x 7 days/week	Oct 25, 2006		

Test	Result	Date	Comments
CD4	740.0	May 8, 2007	
CD4	313.0	Sep 13, 2006	

PULSE

WEIGHT (KG)

CD4 COUNT

Adding to OpenMRS

Household Member (2)

Huyu anapendelea rangi gani?

- Nyekundu
- Kijani
- Njano

T-Mobile



MENU



