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Abstract for an Invited Paper
for the APR14 Meeting of
the American Physical Society

Physics and Hard Disk Drives—A Career in Industry¹

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I will participate in a panel discussion about “Career Opportunities for Physicists.” I enjoyed 27 years doing technology development and product support in the hard disk drive business. My PhD in low temperature physics was excellent training for this career since I learned how to work in a lab, analyze data, write and present technical information, and define experiments that got to the heart of a problem. An academic position did not appeal to me because I had no passion to pursue a particular topic in basic physics. My work in industry provided an unending stream of challenging problems to solve, and it was a rich and rewarding experience. I’m now employed by the APS to focus on our interactions with physicists in industry. I welcome the chance to share my industrial experience with students, post-docs, and others who are making decisions about their career path.

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