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Abstract for an Invited Paper  
for the APR09 Meeting of  
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**W. K. H. Panofsky Prize Talk: The Silicon Vertex Trigger**

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I will discuss the importance of real-time selection of events at a hadron collider, the ideas that led to the conception of the Silicon Vertex Trigger (SVT) and some historical notes on its construction and commissioning. I will also highlight some remarkable results obtained by CDF with the data selected by the SVT.