



## Profiles of Electrical Engineers and Computer Scientists



**John Hoschette**

**Senior Systems Staff Engineer  
Lockheed Martin  
Sunnyvale, CA**

### **Education:**

B.S. - Electrical Engineering, University of Minnesota  
M.S. - Electrical Engineering, University of Minnesota  
MBA - University of Minnesota

### **Job Description:**

Senior Systems Staff Engineer working with systems integration and focusing on image processing with infrared camera systems, computers, and software.

### **Advice to Students:**

"Take the time to look within. Be sure that they truly like the major they're in."

### **Video Transcript 1:**

"In industry, we expect you to work on teams and get answers from other people. That's not called cheating but in college in you're in the middle of a final and stuck on a problem and leaned over to your person next to you and said, I don't get number 3. Can you tell me the answer? The professor would throw you out. In industry what we'd do is reward you and say, great job. You found it sooner."

### **Video Transcript 2:**

"By junior year, you should be in the career centers looking at the jobs and surveying industry. The final thing that is absolutely a must is that you've got to have a plan. You've got to know where you are going. By a plan I mean you should know what industry you are targeting to work in, what geographic area, and you should hone your engineering skills so that they can represent a specific skill pack."

### **Interview:**

John Hoschette remembers what it was like to start out on his engineering career. "Looking for job number one is very scary. I was an engineering student and I had finally mastered the university and suddenly they said, 'Well, you're going to graduate and get a job and you need to go find out.' So I was very scared."

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Hoschette did find out and has now been in industry for twenty-three years. His work on infrared camera systems has expanded, and he now teaches courses in his field in the United States and Europe. Hoschette also enjoys helping other engineers plan their careers and is a member of the IEEE Career Maintenance and Development Committee and has written a book entitled Career Advancement and Survival for Engineers.

Hoschette's first piece of advice to young engineers is to spend a great deal of time thinking about what they want to do in their careers and to plan for it. Some of his suggestions are practical. "Get organized and get help. You've got to get in the career centers; you've got to meet with people; you've got to get out of the classroom; and you've got to do networking: very, very important and do your research."

But Hoschette also tells students to take the time to look within. He advises them to be sure that they truly like the major they're in. They had better "enjoy the work because they're going to do it the rest of their lives." And they need to think about the kind of engineers they want to be: "There's people out there that value money and position and then there's people out there that value pure engineering science." The latter generally choose to dedicate their time to the lab and the former to the business.

Even experienced engineers must continue thinking about their careers. John Hoschette himself now stands at a crossroads. "I've reached my lifetime goal, and I'm struggling with where do I go from here. So I'm doing some soul searching at this point."

John Hoschette wrote "Career Advancement and Survival for Engineers" published by John Wiley & Sons.

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