Aravind Sitaraman

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Vision

Develop the next set of disruptive innovations out of India

Summary

Aravind Sitaraman is a Computer Scientist with over **29 years of work experience** and is one Cisco System's leading inventors with **63 worldwide patents**. He led & was part of several **international standards bodies**. He served on the Board of Studies of Anna University. He managed all Cisco's R&D activities in India from 2007-09. He sponsored The Innovation Hub to incubate new technologies & create solutions for emerging countries.

He rehabilitated tsunami victims in South India & championed flood relief efforts in Karnataka in 2009. Aravind created Project Samudaya, a volunteer-led program, to rehabilitate villages through technology & build 3323 homes, 1 hospital, and 2 schools. Aravind morphed this project into a vehicle to deliver inclusive growth worldwide. In October 2010, he was appointed President, Inclusive Growth. Recognising his social contribution, the state of Karnataka conferred on him its highest civilian decoration, the **Rajyotsava Award** in 2012.

Aravind has published several papers on strategic and social issues in several Indian & foreign journals. In 1996, he was invited to visit the National Human Rights Commission of India. Relocating to India in 2000, Aravind whatisindia.com to further India's influence. He organised strategy papers & digitised ancient inscriptions. He is a member of the Asia Center, a policy think-tank in Bangalore. Aravind co-founded Sivaggami Ammal Memorial Trust to promote Indian culture & art.

In 2010, he wrote & produced an opera on the first woman freedom fighter against European colonial powers called "Abbakka Rani: Queen of Spices."

Work Experience

A Computer Scientist with over 40 years of work experience. After pioneering work in several startup companies and US high-tech companies, he became one of Cisco Systems leading innovators with 63 worldwide patents. He has led and been part of several international standards bodies.

Cisco Systems, Inc.   *April 2007 – 2014 &*
                                                   Previously From December 1996 through January 2005

- One of the leading inventors in Cisco with 63 worldwide patents covering Access, Security, IP Address Assignment, VPN, routing, power management, voice over IP, service differentiation, Internet accounting, massive server development, redundancy in solutions
- Developed fundamental and foundational technologies in networking such as IP Address allocation in VPN, DHCP-based authentication, DHCP-DNS dynamic update, configuration of end points, etc. These have led to broadly-used applications such as enterprise access, instant messaging, user and network tracking, security applications such as usage analytics, mobile access authentication, network end point configuration, etc.
- Created and managed several (and emerging) billion dollar product lines including Internet Service Gateway, cat 85xx, ONS 15xx, ASR 901, CEED x700, etc.
- Led and participated in several international standards bodies
- Authored and participated international networking standards on Voice on IP, Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), security, routing, switching, and managing network end points
- Sponsored an Innovation Hub and created several disruptive solutions leading to the creation of new businesses for Cisco in mobile networking, public safety and security, energy management, optical, access, education and healthcare access in rural access, and management
- Past Chairman of ADSL Auto-configuration and Co-Chairman of Voice over DSL forums in the DSL Forum. Work of these forums have now become well known standards like TR-069
- Published several papers at the DSL & ATM forums, IETF
- Have demonstrated thought leadership in talent development, scaling organisations, and disruptive technology creation, development technologies and solutions for emerging markets, technology development for social issues through articles published in mainstream papers, journals, and seminars

President   *October 2010 – 2014*
Inclusive Growth

Create a new market to make the network the platform to bring about inclusive growth for unconnected populations in the emerging world. Primary responsibilities include:

- Create vision, strategy, and execution plans with clear measurable metrics to make the network the platform of choice to include large unconnected populations in mainstream economy and society in a commercially viable manner
- Work with various governments to identify solutions, build new business models, and create new partnerships

- Create Memorandums of Understanding with governments and partners, identify sources of funding, build business plans, deploy pilots, develop commercial Request for Proposals with various governments, lead bidding on projects with partners
- Developed solutions, products, and technologies to enhance skills development, education, and healthcare
- Execute to business plan across multiple geographies, customers, and governments
- Currently in the process of deploying solutions in India, Mexico, South Africa, Indonesia, and China

Vice President & Managing Director   *April 2007 – August 2010*
Cisco Development Organisation (R&D), India

Led Research & Development activities in India. Primary responsibilities include:

- Provide direction for all R&D activities in India to enable globalisation and focus on talent development, innovation, and market growth
- Manage relationships with partners including software and hardware development activities, new business models guiding development, go-to-market initiatives to evolve a 360° relationship
- Sponsor an Innovation Hub that prototypes disruptive ideas with customers and bring to fruition solutions with various business units and technology groups
- Sponsor, meet with, and brief customers on technology. Relay back requirements and service delivery plans to global business units, develop business plans, and ensure that customer needs are prioritised
- Manage all service level agreements with support groups such as Workplace Resources, Finance, Information Technology, Human Resources, legal, etc and manage their delivery
- Create an interface framework with Universities in India, define projects and technology creation activities, create and manage statements of work
- Represent the R&D organisation in press and media events, do interviews on technology, participate in panel discussions, and deliver keynote addresses in various seminars
- Participate in industry-level organisations such as CII, NASCOM, ISA, Zinnov CEO Forum, etc. Lead industry sub-committees on technology and innovation

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What Is India Publishers (P) Ltd
Chairman & CEO   *January 2005 – Present*

A non-profit organisation seeking to influence policy in India and India policy abroad through the creation of a positive, constructive, and objective information on India so policy makers, academics, researchers, opinion makers, and investors can make and form educated decisions and opinion on India. The organization has existed since 1995 and in formal and present form since 2005. The achievements over the past few years are:

- Digitised Archaeological Survey of India records of South Indian Inscriptions in over 2000 temples. Sponsored research on India and now over several hundred web pages on Wikipedia, Encarta, and online Encyclopaedia on South Indian kingdoms are now available based on this work.
- Portals of 300 issues facing India ranging from Art to Issues facing Women from over 60 sources.
- Created a body of detailed information on states, history, administration, and tourism.
- Created in-depth news Analysis on over 200 subjects
- Created a comprehensive catalogue of Indian academic institutions
- Created a comprehensive catalogue of global India missions
- Created a daily issue of strategic news of issues facing India
- Currently documenting Carnatic music songs and digitising them for publication
- Currently documenting and digitising Sthala Puranas (historical records of major Indian destinations) based on literature, ASI material, and inscriptions.

CLT India

Trustee   *January 2002-November 2013*

Build a state-of-the-art school for tsunami victims in a remote village near Vedaranyam, Tamil Nadu. Responsibilities included:

- Seeking funding from outside organisation through the creation of a proposal that was accepted by Intel Foundation
- Work with the Government of India to obtain tax exemption, auditing, forex inflow, etc.
- Lead a team of architects, civil engineers, financing entities, partner non-government organisations, and contractors to create a design, architecture, and plans
- Work with the Tamil Nadu Government to get design and plan authorised, create infrastructure, and appropriate
- Work with local Panchayat and municipal government bodies to obtain local authorisation, facilities, infrastructure such as water and electricity, etc.
- Design and formulate partnership with local non-government organisations, design vocational and development programs for children and adults
- Project was completed in record time of less than a year and cost was less than Rs. 500 a sqft which is the Government rate.
- The Tamil Nadu Government is planning to use the design as a template for its newer schools.

Asia Center   *June 2006 – 2018*
Member

Was invited to be a member of this very reputed organisation of former diplomats and military personnel to contribute to the betterment of India. Presented paper on "Evolution of Indo-US Relations."

NetManage, Inc.

Client Architect   *November 1995 – December 1996*

Designed and managed the (*multi-site*) development of a 100% **_Component Object Model (COM)_**-based *Client Architecture* to facilitate all stand-alone socket-based products to plug-into a common Client—aimed at the **Intranet** market. This *extensible* and *plug-in* architecture supports multiple clients, limitless plug-in modules, a **_MAPI_**-compliant store using Microsoft **_DAO_** classes and hence **_ODBC_**-enabled, and opaque incoming and outgoing **MAPI-compliant transports (POP, IMAP, SMTP, NNTP, HTTP, Telnet, Fingre, etc.)**. The architecture allows inter-process communication, seamless access to the underlying database, and mechanisms to display data in remote databases within the client. Individually developed the Kernel-like central piece of this product that facilitates the plug-in and extensibility mechanism, inter-module communication, access to the **_MAPI_** store, and **_thread management_**.

Oracle, Corp.

Senior Software Engineer   *November 1994 - November 1995*

As the **primary developer** for the **_Win-32_** and **_Win-16_** platforms, participated in the development of a **multi-media**, WYSIWYG authoring tool. Using complex document flow algorithms, this software was later absorbed into the wider Oracle Inter-Office aimed at the **Intranet** market. The Client-Server Inter-Office product is a **_COM_**-based suite of applications that allows better inter and intra-enterprise collaboration. Developed a **_COM_** framework for a widely acclaimed prototype of this product to demonstrate the interaction of Mail, Web-browsing, and Document Management within a single application. Later, as the **architect** for the *Collaboration* module of the product, developed concepts that would allow thread-level local configuration.

Novell-STI, Inc.

Senior Software Engineer   *June 1993 - October 1994*

As a **member of the core MS-Windows development team**, participated in the development and three major releases of **Novell Appware Foundation** (NAWF, collectively known as **Novell AppWare**)--Beta on **_Win32_** and product on **_Win16_**. The foundation is a *cross-platform, uniform,* seamless **C** application-programming interface to access operating systems with a single source base and minimal native code. Startup company was bought over by Novell, Inc.

Significant contributions include: providing a *programming interface to Visual Basic* to get around the ownership of the message loop in design and execution modes; implementation of accessing *graphics* using logical coordinates; implementation of *floating-point error-trapping* mechanism in Win16; implementation of seamless *conversion between device-independent bitmaps, bitmaps, and metafiles*; and vastly upgrading the file component. Also extensively participated in maintenance releases including *bug fixing* in *user-interface*, *graphical*, *font*, *file*, and *print* management.

Andersen Consulting

Lead Technical Client Architect   *Nov 1992 - June 1993*

Designed Windows-based **Client Architecture** for a very large utility application -- 4,000+ users, 650 gigabytes of data, 600+ dialog windows, and 150+ developers. The architecture design required in-depth knowledge of MS-Windows, HPS (case tool from SEER Technologies), and the requirements of the application. Included in the design was an *encapsulation of the primitives*, *robust architectural debugging* and *profiling* capabilities, *error logging*, and several tools such as a generalized *array manager, memory manager*, etc. **Managed** a team of development engineers.

Trident Infotech (U.S.A.), Inc.

Development Manager   *Feb 1991 - Oct 1992*

Managed the design, development, and successful delivery of two commercial software products for MS-Windows: **WinTscrn** and **WinTfmt**. Managed beta test programs for two additional Windows products: **WinTbase** (a comprehensive data base driver managing dBASE format files and dBASE and Clipper format indexes) and **WinTbls** (a core data base engine for C and C++ programmers).

StellarNet, Inc.

Systems Analyst   *Aug 1990 - Jan 1991*

As part of a team, designed, developed, and implemented a *knowledge-based* commercial insurance software. Maintained *Electronic Data Interchange* modules that "bundle" data for transfer to and "map" data from *IBM mainframes*. This product is currently in the market.

United States Information Agency

Chief of Administration & Computers   *Jan 1986 - Jul 1990*

Managed Administration and Computer Departments. Administrative responsibilities included management of Budgets, human resource, Payroll, Transportation, Shipping, and Travel. Computer responsibilities included development of application software for the US Government agency. Principal applications developed was an MS-DOS **Application Development Toolkit** that handled *screen management*, *data base* operations (including *B+ Trees*), and *report generation*. Application developers interactively define their system to the toolkit, including data base fields, file names, menu, etc. The toolkit then generated a project file that was used at execution by the executing component. Several financial, administrative, and management applications were created using this toolkit.

Education

Master of Business Administration **Computer-Aided Management**, 1983-1985, **University of Cincinnati**

Bachelor of Commerce   1980-83, **University of Madras**

Other Achievements

Publications: Written and published several articles on India and India related issues in many papers across the world

Affiliations: Participated on the Board of Studies of Anna University in Chennai and PSG Technology in Coimbatore; part of advisory board of Akshaya Patra (feeding poor children noon meals), SRM University (renown engineering college in Chennai), Ashwasan Trust (rehabilitating old people), Aishwarya Trust (funding corrective operations on children with con-genitive heart disease); co-founder of Sivagammi Ammal Memorial Trust (funding arts, culture, and preserving heritage)

Trekking: Have completed four treks in the Himalayas – (130 km to an altitude of 4,463m, 150 km to an altitude of 5416m, 110 km to an altitude of 4300m, and 80 kilometers to altitude of 4100m)

Arts: Wrote and Produced an Opera on the 1st freedom fighter against colonial rule in India called "Abbakka: Queen of Spices". Run a personal foundation supporting artists and artisans

Interests: History, Culture, Music, Drama, Opera, Chess, and Tennis

Recognition & Honors: Awarded the highest civilian award by state of Karnataka, the **Rajotsava Award** in 2012, for Social Service to flood affected victims