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Favorite Quote?

“We adore chaos because we love to produce order.”

M.C. Escher

CONCEPT TO COMMISION: 30 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Jon has literally been with DSI from the beginning. As an integral part of the success of the company, Jon has seen and done just about everything within this industry - his stories are legendary around the office and his mentorship to young engineers is invaluable. A true paragon of hard work and critical thinking, Jon has set the bar high for all those that follow.

What do you like most about DSI?

The wide range of Customers, Projects and Assignments. Many engineers work for companies that manufacture the same product for five years. As an engineer at DSI, you could work for ten different companies, building ten different products during that period. The challenges that come with each project is very stimulating.

How has the industry changed over the years?

Computer Aided “Everything”. As I signed up for my first college classes, one requisite class was, “Introduction to Engineering and Slide Rule”. When I arrive at school for my first semester, the class name had changed to “Introduction to Engineering and Calculators”. After college I started on a drawing board and transitioned to 2D CAD and somehow lost my electric eraser. My first exposure to an electronic spreadsheet was Multiplan, it was a real game-changer being able to enter data, perform equations, and get results right on the screen. The use of computing platforms in engineering has been, and will continue, to be exciting.

What are some of your favorite memories from work?

Bringing the Chrysler M-Body to American Motors in Kenosha, Wisconsin was my favorite. AMC was an amazing group to work for. Plus, the AMC Project was a first for DSI to establish an on-site engineering office. The AMC Project started in 1985 when Personal Computers became functional as CAD workstations, DSI had two IBM AT PC workstations, one large format Calcomp Pen Plotter and a 2400 baud modem. Towards the end of the two-year project, we had a Compaq 286 Portable PC with a color monitor!



What's been your biggest success?

Ford Kentucky Truck Plant (KTP), Commercial Light Truck (CLT) Paint Shop in Louisville, Kentucky. Ford struggled with their previous paint shop launches with process flow and came to DSI to use dynamic discrete simulation to engineer their new paint shop. After numerous simulation models resulting analysis was used to develop KTP. The Ford KTP CLT was a successful launch and I was glad to be a part of that project.

What direction do you see (engineering, consulting) going in the future?

I am not fond of the word "Consultant". I prefer to be described as a "Practitioner", as an Engineer who has the hands on, real world experience to make a manufacturing system perform. I have not worn a suit to a Customer's facility in years.



Waiting at an enduro checkpoint during an AHRMA ISDT reunion race.

What's been the biggest challenge in your career?

Ergonomic analysis using motion capture and linking to dynamic simulation to model variables in an operator's eight-hour workday. A Customer asked if we could combine 3D digital human software with discrete dynamic simulation, DSI did not say no.

What's something you're proud to have accomplished?

Being a Father to my two sons. I am very proud of them and what they have done.

Who inspires you?

Nikola Tesla. We all learned about Thomas Edison in school. Tesla was the real genius.

Some advice for young professionals?

Take Notes. Always have a notebook, paper and pencil, or a tablet. Document your day. Record meeting discussions, thoughts and ideas. Show you are interested in being part of the team.

Listen to Experience. Hear what experience is saying. Understand the steps it takes to solve a problem, or engineer a system. Think about how new tools and technology can improve the engineering process, and apply the knowledge that experience brings.

Distinctive Report Writing. Create reports that tell a story and stand on their own. Learn to use PowerPoint in a way that will speak to the viewer and does not require the report writer to interpret each and every slide.

What do you enjoy doing on your own time?

Restore Small Engines, Vintage Motorcycles, and Antique Outboard Motors. I also have a Mobile DJ Service, but I do not do weddings.

What do you enjoy about your work?

Data. I love data, and finding the story that is in the data. Data is hard to dispute when the data is valid. Creating manufacturing facility layouts, there is nothing more satisfying than to create an efficient process flow.