



Dr. Robert M. Metcalfe '64



Dr. Robert M. (“Bob”) Metcalfe is a general partner of Polaris Venture Partners in Waltham, Massachusetts. Since 1/1/01 he has been focusing on Boston-area information-technology start-ups.

Metcalfe is a director of Avistar Communications (NASDAQ: AVSR), Camden Technology Conference (Pop!Tech), EarthLink (NASDAQ: ELNK), Ember, IDC, IDG, Kelmscott Rare Breeds Foundation, MIT, MIT MediaLabEurope, MIT Technology Review Magazine, Nanosys, Narad Networks, and St. Mark’s School.

Metcalfe had three careers before becoming a venture capitalist:

While an engineer-scientist (1965-1979), Metcalfe helped build the early Internet. In 1973, at the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center, he invented Ethernet, the local-area networking standard on which he shares four patents. Now, 30 years later, more than 100 million new Ethernet connections are shipped every year.

While an entrepreneur-executive (1979-1990), Metcalfe founded 3Com Corporation, the billion-dollar networking company where at various times he was Chairman, CEO, division general manager, and vice president of engineering, marketing, and sales.

While a publisher-pundit (1990-2000), Metcalfe was Publisher/CEO of IDG’s InfoWorld Publishing Company (1992-1995). For eight years, he wrote an Internet column read weekly by more than half a million information technologists. He spoke often, appeared on radio and television, and hosted his own weekly webcast. He produced conferences including ACM97, ACM1, Agenda, Pop!Tech, and Vortex. His books include *Packet Communication*, *Beyond Calculation*, and *Internet Collapses* — all still available at Amazon.com.

Born in Brooklyn, New York in 1946, he graduated from Bay Shore High School 1964. In 1969, he graduated from MIT with two bachelors degrees, in electrical engineering and in industrial management. He received a masters degree in applied mathematics from Harvard in 1970 and his 1973 Harvard PhD was entitled *Packet Communication*. Metcalfe was consulting associate professor of electrical engineering at Stanford, where he taught computer programming and networking 1976-1983. He was a 1991-92 visiting fellow in the Computer Laboratory at the University of Cambridge, England. In 2003, Metcalfe was elected a Life Member of the MIT Corporation.

In 1980, Metcalfe received the Grace Murray Hopper Award from the Association for Computing Machinery. In 1988, he received the Alexander Graham Bell Medal from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. In 1995, Metcalfe was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1996, he received the IEEE’s Medal of Honor. In 1997, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering. In 1999, he was elected to the International Engineering Consortium. In October 2003, Metcalfe will receive the Marconi International Fellowship prize.

After 22 years in Silicon Valley, Metcalfe now lives with his family in Boston and Maine