

# Don Dossa

Lawrence Livermore National Lab, retired

# Before the Lab



- 1976 - 1998
- Hardware engineering manager at Digital Equipment Corp
- Design team for many of those Vaxes you loved
- VAX clusters, Alpha servers and clusters
- High Performance Computing Expertise Center manager
- PhD in Computational Semiconductor Theory



- 1998 - 2008
- Salishan Conference committee 2002 - 2007
- Qualification testing on 1,500 CPU IBM system
- Installation and acceptance testing of 512 CPU Alpha cluster.
- BlueGene/L R&D contract, installation, testing lead
- Large Synoptic Survey Telescope - Computer Architecture Team Lead
- Astrophysics - Stellar Evolution in 3D, billions of cells

# Salishan - more behind the scenes

Getting DOE approval became increasingly difficult

Required competitive bids and find excuses to reject them

Detailed budget with \$0.01 accuracy to set registration fees

Color of money: DOE allowable and unallowable \$

DOE *Allowable* spending determined registration fee

DOE *Unallowable* spending covered by the sponsors:

All that wine - 18 cases. And jackets.

Rejected requests for invitations (request -> plea -> beg)

-made new friends and 'enemies'

DOE-required estimated and final budget silliness

High user demand frequently broke the Lodge network

Was on Lodge roof placing wi-fi routers

Handicapped room disaster - none available for an attendee

Very productive conference

Yes, I would do it again



# Salishan Diversity

Tripled attendance of women

Special dinner for women attendees

Invited ~ 10 students each year

Introduced them to supercomputing

Introduced Older attendees as mentors

Brought in younger people because the older attendees were getting older.





# Life After Salishan

- Movie producer
- Novelist

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE: By Stephan Pastis

