

Lawrence A. Rowe
Emeritus Professor EECS, U.C. Berkeley

Professor Rowe received a BS in mathematics and a PhD in information & computer science from UC Irvine in 1970 and 1976, respectively. He was a Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at UC Berkeley from 1976 to 2003. His research interests are distributed systems, database systems, database application programming tools, multimedia applications and systems, and streaming media including webcasting and radio/TV broadcasting. He is recognized for his research in software-only MPEG-1 video encoding, decoding, and streaming, Internet webcasting, and database application development tools. His research group developed the Berkeley Lecture Webcasting System, which between 2002 and 2015 produced over 30 course lecture webcasts and podcasts each week viewed worldwide by over 500,000 people per month. For more information see “A Grassroots Initiative: webcast.berkeley” in “Unlocking the Gates” by Taylor Walsh, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011.

After several years consulting and angel investing after retiring from Berkeley, Rowe accepted a position in 2007 as President/COO at FX Palo Alto Laboratory (FXPAL), which is a research lab modeled after Xerox PARC owned by Fuji Xerox. He later served as Chairman/CEO of the lab and left the company at the end of 2014. The FXPAL mission was to develop innovative technologies and product prototypes for the company.

Rowe published extensively and contributed to several important open source software systems (e.g., Berkeley MPEG-1 Tools, Postgres, Open Mash, Ingres, etc.). He received several “Best Paper” awards (ACM OOPSLA 1991, SIGMOD 1996, and Multimedia 1998). A paper co-authored with Dr. Michael Stonebraker, titled “Design of POSTGRES,” published in 1986 received the “1996 ACM SIGMOD Test of Time Award” for a paper that had the most impact over the decade after which it first appeared. More information is available at <https://goo.gl/zv64M0> and <http://rowehome.net/LarryRowe>.

He founded several companies including the original Ingres Corporation, a relational DBMS startup co-founded in 1980 with Michael Stonebraker and Eugene Wong that went public in 1988. Beside consulting on business and product strategy, Rowe was a Board Member and VP Engineering at various times before the company was sold in 1990. For more info see “History of the Ingres Corporation,” IEEE Annals of the History of Computing, Vol 34, No4, Oct-Dec 2012.

Rowe is an active angel investor, a founding Board member for the corporate incubator Siemens Technology-to-Business (1999-2003), and served on the Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Boards for several high-tech companies including NCast, Inktomi and Dust Inc. He joined The Batchery, an Oakland-based global incubator for seed stage entrepreneurs, in early 2015 as an Investor/Advisor. He invested in over 10 startup companies before leaving the Batchery in Spring 2024. He continues to advise and support over half of these companies.

Professor Rowe is an ACM Fellow, past chair of the ACM Special Interest Group on Multimedia (1998-2003), and a co-founding editorial board member of the ACM Transactions on Multimedia Computing, Communications, and Applications. He served on numerous administrative and policy committees at the University of California and for agencies of the U.S. government and computer consortiums (e.g., NSF Computer Science Network Committee 1979-82, NRC Panel on Telecommunications 1993-4, and Internet2 Applications Committee 1997-2003). He was a co-recipient of the 2002 U.C. Technology Leadership Council Award for IT Innovation for his development of the Berkeley Lecture Webcasting System. He received the 2007 U.C. Irvine Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Science Distinguished Alumni Award. And in 2009, he received the ACM SIG Multimedia Technical Achievement Award recognizing his lifetime research and service contributions to SIGMM.

Finally, Larry and his wife Jean produce and sell award-winning premium wines using Napa Valley grapes under the Greyscale Wines brand (<http://greyscalewines.com>).