

2019 BOARD NOMINEE

# Marvin Theimer

VP/Distinguished Engineer, AWS Commerce Platform  
Amazon Web Services, Inc.



**CRA**  
Computing Research  
Association

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## Awards and Honors and Year Received

- ACM SigOps Hall of Fame award, 2015: "Managing update conflicts in Bayou, a weakly connected replicated storage system.", D. B. Terry, M. M. Theimer, Karin Petersen, A. J. Demers, M. J. Spreitzer, and C. H. Hauser, Proceedings of the 15th ACM symposium on Operating Systems Principles (SOSP ,Â95), December 1995, 172-182.
- USITS best paper award, 2003: "SkipNet: A Scalable Overlay Network with Practical Locality Properties", Nicholas J. A. Harvey, Michael B. Jones, Stefan Saroiu, Marvin Theimer, Alec Wolman, USENIX Symposium on Internet Technologies and Systems 2003.

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## Involvement in CRA Activities

- No

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## Other Relevant Experience

- Senior Principal Engineer and then Distinguished Engineer at Amazon Web Services: 2006 - 2007, 2008 - present.
- Principal Scientist at Microsoft Research, Redmond: 1999 - 2003.
- Taught graduate distributed systems seminar at U.C. Berkeley during Fall of 1994 and the undergraduate operating systems course during Fall of 1997.
- Member of Research Staff-II at Xerox Palo Alto Research Center: 1989 - 1998.
- Ph.D. from Stanford University in Computer Science: 1986.

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## Research Interests

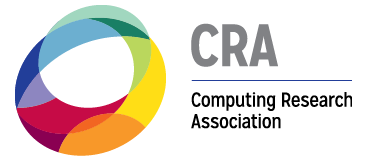
- Distributed systems
- Big data

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## Personal Statement

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I'm running for this position because I believe it's important for industry to have senior technical people be directly involved in discussions with academia and government about how the three should relate to each other. What I bring to the table is that my background gives me a perspective that spans both research and product development, as well as industry and academia.

## Short Bio

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Marvin Theimer is a Distinguished Engineer at Amazon. Marvin received a PhD in Computer Science from Stanford University in 1986. He then spent seventeen years as a researcher working at IBM's Almaden Research Center, Xerox PARC, and Microsoft Research on topics including distributed operating systems, ubiquitous computing, weakly-consistent replicated systems, peer-to-peer file systems, and global-scale peer-to-peer event notification systems. Marvin left research in 2003 to work on Microsoft's Advanced Web Services and High Performance Computing products. He joined Amazon in 2006 and has worked on a variety of projects, ranging from EC2's Virtual Private Cloud, to various distributed coordination services, to the Kinesis streaming data processing platform. He currently spends most of his time working with AWS's Commerce Platform and Identity-and-Access-Management teams.

## Contact

[www.linkedin.com/in/marvin-theimer-8bb40](http://www.linkedin.com/in/marvin-theimer-8bb40) (LinkedIn)

# Marvin Theimer

Distinguished Engineer at Amazon Web Services  
Seattle, Washington

## Summary

Marvin Theimer is a Distinguished Engineer at Amazon. He spent the first half of his career as an industrial researcher working on a wide variety of distributed systems topics, including distributed operating systems, ubiquitous computing, weakly-consistent replicated systems, peer-to-peer file systems, and global-scale peer-to-peer event notification systems. In 2003 he left research for a "sabbatical" to product development and never came back. In the product world his primary contributions have been on Web Services, HPC, scalable reliable messaging services, virtualized cloud networks, streaming data processing platforms, utility commerce platforms, cloud directories, and identity-and-access-management platforms.

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## Experience

Amazon Web Services  
Distinguished Engineer  
January 2013 - Present

Amazon Web Services  
Senior Principal Engineer  
August 2008 - December 2012 (4 years 5 months)

Google  
Member of Technical Staff  
January 2008 - July 2008 (7 months)

Amazon.com  
Senior Principal Engineer  
September 2006 - December 2007 (1 year 4 months)

Microsoft  
7 years 10 months

Software Architect

September 2003 - September 2006 (3 years 1 month)

Senior Researcher

December 1998 - September 2003 (4 years 10 months)

Xerox PARC

Member of Research Staff

1989 - 1998 (10 years)

IBM Research

Research Staff Member

October 1986 - April 1989 (2 years 7 months)

Stanford University

Graduate student

1979 - 1986 (8 years)

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## Education

Stanford University

PhD, Computer Science · (1979 - 1986)