Information Technology Management at Plantronics

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Abstract:
Plantronics, the world leader in communication headsets, has been in business since the early 1960s. Since then, they have grown from an airline pilot's vision for a lightweight cockpit headset to a company with revenues of $750 million selling into 70 countries. In 1972, Plantronics started manufacturing headsets in Mexico as part of the Maquiladora program. Today Plantronics is a global company with distributed design centers and a growing manufacturing presence in China.

This talk will cover an overview of the Plantronics business, Information Technology (IT) at Plantronics, Plantronics globalization strategy, and IT as an enabler of globalization.

About the Speaker:
As Vice-President and Chief Information Officer at Plantronics, Tom has responsibility for company wide Information Technology. Drawing on more than twenty five years experience in IT, Tom combines his business experience, technology knowledge and customer service orientation in his role as CIO.

Before joining Plantronics, Tom held senior IT positions at Bay Networks, Tandem Computers and TRW. He has a BS in Business Information Systems from San Diego State University. Tom is a member of the Microsoft High Tech Customer Advisory Board, guest lecturer in the UCSC ISTM program, Cabrillo College CIS Advisory Board Member and Santa Cruz County Business Council Board member.

Next week:
- 4PM: Lessons learned, course closure
- 4:30PM: Dr. Gene Amdahl, “How could a farm kid, educated in a one room country school, with no courses in computers or programming, end up designing two of IBM’s major computer lines and end up competing quite successfully with Big Blue?” (Please check “Wikipedia” for detailed information on Dr. Gene Amdahl).