Chris Coppola
Open Source Software CEO
Phoenix, Arizona Area | Higher Education

Current	rSmart, Kuali Foundation
Previous	Kuali Foundation, Sakai Foundation, The rSmart Group
Education	Arizona State University

Summary

Creative software executive with deep experience building open source communities and business; extensive experience managing the full lifecycle of concept to market with new software product initiatives; resolute, entrepreneur; fast and continuous learner; creative problem solver; exceptionally well organized with a track record that demonstrates self motivation, creativity, and initiative to achieve personal and corporate goals; outstanding technical skills and technology management skills.

Specialties: open source software business, oss software community development, software IP management, new product development, software development management, organizational design and development, electronic learning systems.

Experience

Co-Founder, President, and CEO
rSmart
July 2007 – Present (6 years 7 months)

Director
Kuali Foundation
August 2004 – Present (9 years 6 months)

Member
Kuali Foundation
2004 – 2009 (5 years)

Director
Sakai Foundation
2005 – December 2008 (3 years)

President
The rSmart Group
October 2001 – July 2007 (5 years 10 months)

Senior Director of New Product Development
SCT Higher Education
August 1999 – November 2001 (2 years 4 months)

President
Rsmart
1997 – 1999 (2 years)

Director of Operations
Network One Communications Group
1994 – 1997 (3 years)

Handled client relationships, project management, and primary business functions. Lead CD-ROM product development and multimedia production team. Used development toos such as Delphi, Visual Basic, Director, HTML. Used design and production tools and equipment including Lightwave, Animation Master, Photoshop, Premiere, CorelDraw, Nonlinear Editing and Broadcast video eqiupment.

Principal
Soft Reel Graphics, LLC.
1993 – 1993 (less than a year)

Customer relationships, project management, corporate documentation, finances and marketing. Worked extensiv ely with 3D Modelling and animation software, 2D Graphic Design packages, Programming and Authoring tools, World Wide Web development.

VP Technical Operations
Beyond Reality, Inc.
1992 – 1992 (less than a year)

Responsible for technical operations of small computer systems and consulting business. Primary responsibilities were: development of database applications; on-site evaluation services and system troubleshooting; system integration assembly; research and sourcing of new personal computer technologies. Also assisted in development of marketing and sales strategies.

Intelligence Command, Systems and Software Administrator
United States Air Force
December 1987 – December 1991 (4 years 1 month)

Education

Arizona State University

Bachelors of Science, Industrial Technology

1993 – 1995

Additional Info

Interests

open source software, organizational development, snowboarding, software development methodology, technology gadgets

Personal Details

Birthday   December 30, 1968

Marital Status   Married

Organizations

Additional Organizations

The Sakai Foundation, The Kuali Foundation

Chris Coppola

CEO and President, Founder

"There are a lot of things I love about my job, but one of the most gratifying is facilitating the work of great people who are passionate about making open education happen."

What I do at rSmart

As one of rSmart's founders, over the years I've gotten to wear most of the company's hats before passing them on to our incredibly capable staff. As CEO and president of rSmart, I now spend most of my time at the intersection of rSmart, the Sakai and Kuali communities, and our customers, where I focus on optimizing the role rSmart plays in the emerging open-education ecosystem. There are a lot of things I love about my job, but one of the most gratifying is facilitating the work of great people who are passionate about making open education happen.

Feathers in my Cap

- First elected member of the Sakai Foundation Board

- First elected member of the Kuali Foundation Board

- BS in Industrial Technology from Arizona State University

In the Community

- Longtime, active member of the Sakai community and one of the original OSP leaders

- One of the Kuali community founders, currently serving on the Kuali Foundation

- Board, Kuali Financial System Board, Kuali Rice Board, and Kuali Student Board

- Chair of the Kuali Application Roadmap Committee—the group that sets the development direction for Kuali Rice

- Developed the licensing and intellectual property practices for Sakai and Kuali

- Active at Sakai and Kuali conferences

What Floats My Boat at Work and Beyond

- Being a member of the Sakai and Kuali communities and participating in groundbreaking, socially important work with amazingly smart, talented people. Also, getting to effect meaningful changes in the way IT supports education.

From www.rsmart.com/company/rsmart-people/leaders/chris-coppola-ceo-and-president-founder/

- Enjoying the outdoors in Arizona with my wife and two daughters; traveling; brewing; digital photography; and playing with the latest tech toys.