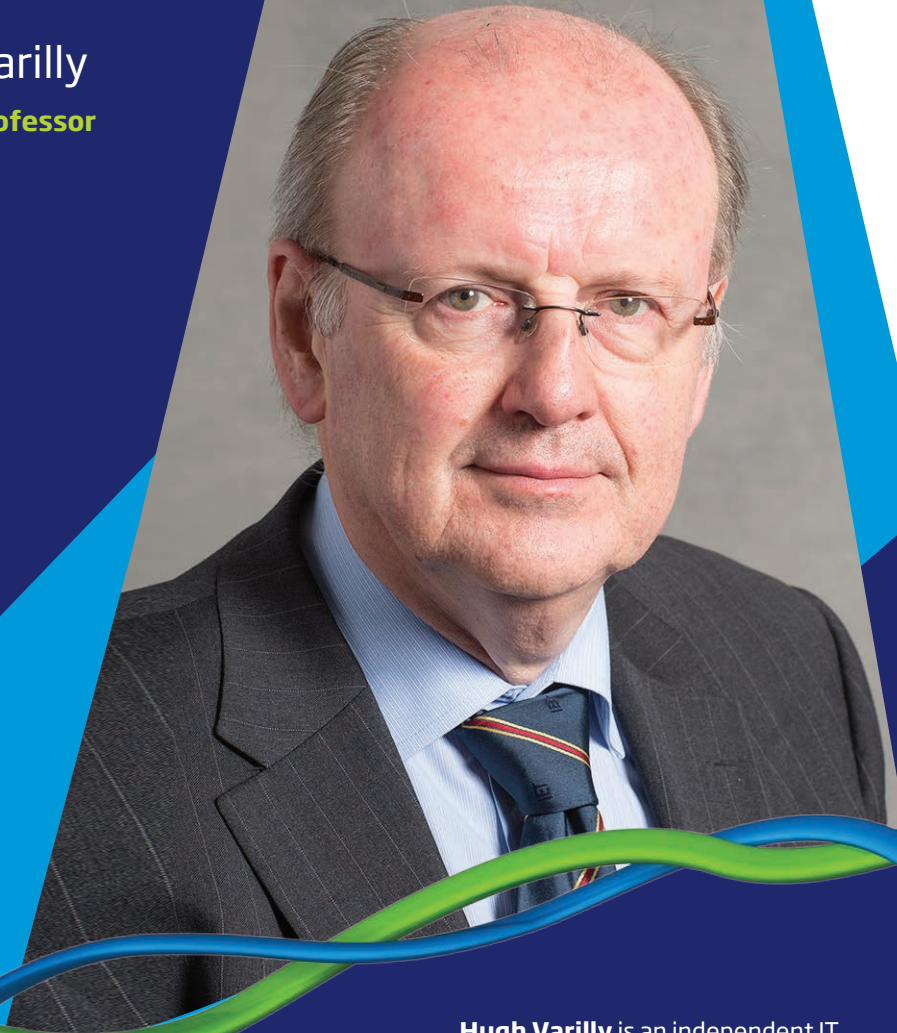


Hugh Varilly

Visiting Professor



Hugh Varilly is an independent IT consultant specialising in infrastructure and service delivery. Hugh was a Royal Academy of Engineering Visiting Professor in Innovation at University College London until March 2016, where he was involved in teaching, tutoring and developing new programmes.



ROYAL
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ENGINEERING

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CAREER

Hugh joined IBM shortly after completing his degree and developed a successful career at the company spanning more than 40 years. He started as a programmer/analyst, and over time, became both a systems programmer and technology consultant.

Hugh’s technical experience was recognised in 2001 with his appointment as an IBM Distinguished Engineer, the second most senior technical designation in IBM. His profile and experience made him an ideal candidate for a Visiting Professorship as the scheme seeks to bring the experiences of senior industry practitioners into academia.

IMPACT

As a Visiting Professor, Hugh made significant contributions to teaching in both the Department of Computer Science and the School of Management (part of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences) at University College London (UCL). As well as contributing to existing programmes (such as a module on technology management and professional issues), Hugh developed and taught an undergraduate module that provides insights into innovation in industry entitled ‘Innovation in the Enterprise’. He also invited guest speakers from companies including IBM, Microsoft, AT&T and McLaren Automotive to contribute to lectures and seminars.

As a Visiting Professor, Hugh’s contributions extended beyond teaching, marking and examining undergraduate projects. He also brought his experience in designing and running

large IT systems to strategic use by serving on UCL’s Computer Science Advisory Board.

Additionally, as well as mentoring students and alumni, each year Hugh has developed and delivered workshops aimed at improving undergraduate students’ ability to apply for and successfully obtain, employment in industry.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Hugh also found personal benefit in his time as a Visiting Professor.

“I have been able to update my understanding of the latest software development technologies and been exposed to some outstanding computer scientists,” he says. “One of my plans on retirement was to go back to university; however, I never expected it to be as a teacher rather than as a student.”

Furthermore, UCL has extended its collaboration with Hugh by appointing him as an Honorary Visiting Professor for a fixed term following the end of the award. He continues to teach a module on ‘Technology-driven Business Innovation’ for the School of Management and is also working with the school to develop and teach a new undergraduate module on business intelligence.

VISITING PROFESSORS

Royal Academy of Engineering Visiting Professors are an industry-into-academia initiative that aims to use the experience of senior industry practitioners to enhance student learning, as well as the employability and skills of UK engineering graduates.