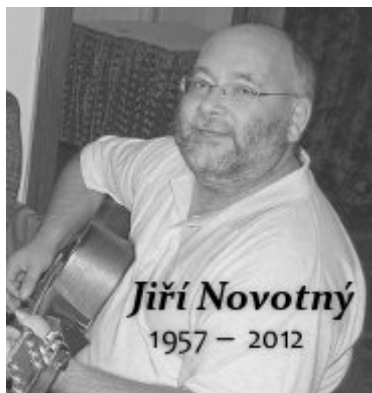


Obituary

Jiří Novotný



Jiří Novotný was born in Ostrava, Czech Republic, on April 7, 1957 and died in Dolní Morava, Czech Republic, on February 17, 2012, at the age of 55. He passed away suddenly during skiing.

Jiří grew up in Brno, and developed an interest in electronics. After earning a degree in Radio Communications from Brno University of Technology in 1981, he joined the Institute of Computer Science at the Masaryk University Brno. His work and research touched many areas. Shortly after beginning his work, he founded the microprocessor department and started the development of computer peripherals to interconnect university computers. He developed the first university routers and together with Dr. Ivo Černohlávek, they connected in 1992 Brno to Internet. Jiří was a networking pioneer and architect of Brno's academic optical network.

He got interested in using FPGAs (*Field-Programmable Gate Arrays*) for high-speed networking and designed more than 20 network adapter prototypes. From 1998 to 2001 he led the development of intelligent PCI communication cards within the Terabeam company, USA. In 2002 he joined CESNET - the Czech academic network operator and started the Liberouter project (2002-2010) with Dr. Ladislav Lhotka. The Liberouter project contributed significantly to hardware-accelerated networking and more than hundred students were involved in this project. In recent years, his focus changed to network security. He collaborated on security research with the U.S. Army and the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic. He contributed to the establishment of the Computer Incident Response Team of Masaryk University, 2009.

Jiří was a big advocate of experimental computer science and engineering research. He always stressed that his research should have practical impact. He was co-founder of a university start-up company (2007), devoted to the

development of state-of-the-art solutions for high-speed network applications. Until his death, he served as chief technology officer and provided valuable contributions to the collaboration between industry and academia.

His scientific visibility and involvement in the international research events was unanimously appreciated by his scientific peers and colleagues. In 2012, Jiří became one of the Technical Program Committee chairs for the AIMS 2012 conference in Luxembourg, where his active role, in promoting the event and driving the paper submission and selection process, was very important for the success of the event.

He was a music lover and bandleader of the *Ugly Duck* group. He was a member of the Pipe Club Brno. He enjoyed many sports, loved to travel and recently started to practice freediving.

He is survived by his wife Marie, his son Tomáš and his daughter Šárka. In addition, he leaves behind a legacy of students, colleagues and friends who will remember this very special man to whom they owe so much.

March 2012

Pavel Čeleda, PhD
Brno, Czech Republic

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