Values and Objectives
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I have prioritized some of the values most important to myself into four categories starting with the most important and ending with the least important ones. The first tier of values and most important category of priorities includes the values of acting in an ethical manner, acting in a socially responsible manner, developing skills as a computer scientist, and contributing to society. I have always been a person of principle and strong convictions so acting in an ethical manner has always been an important value to myself. Before I take any action I need to consider how my actions will affect others. Will my actions affect others in a positive or negative manner? I also have strong feelings about being socially responsible. Protecting the environment and civil liberties has always been important to myself. The actions I take today do affect society in some way and I like to hold myself to a standard. I have consciously made a decision that I would not work for a company that damages the environment in any way or has a bad track record in the area of civil liberties. This has not been an easy decision. It may eliminate me from some very good job opportunities but I feel compelled to do so. Developing my skills as a computer scientist has always been important to myself. Keeping my skills current will contribute to my growth as a computer scientist. I will also feel better about myself and I will be more marketable as a computer scientist. I also believe that I can make a contribution to society and the well being of others. It could be some advancement that makes life easier or something that contributes to the overall well being of future generations.

The second tier of priorities includes the values of career advancement and contribution to my discipline. In the previous section I discussed keeping my skills current and sharpening my skills as a computer scientist. I placed that value over the value of advancement because it is more important to keep my skills current for the sake
of my own growth. Keeping my skills current will however contribute to my discipline and put myself in a position to be advancement. Both are welcome by products of the first tier of priorities.

The third tier of priorities includes the values of financial security and prestige or status in my profession and society. Once again, the things I do for own growth, as a computer scientist should keep me financially secure. Financial security is important to me but as I stated earlier this is another value that is a byproduct of my own personal growth. Acting ethnically and keeping my own skills sharp will surely gain the respect of my peers and colleagues. Once again, prestige and status are byproducts of other values and the way I apply myself in my profession.

The fourth and final tier of values includes the values of family and leisure time and autonomy and control. Family and my leisure are important to me. I will make time for leisure activities and my family. I have always tended to be a workaholic and I may need work in this area. I will need to find a balance of work time and play time. I do enjoy autonomy in my profession but I tend to be a company man.

All these values will play a critical role in achieving my career objectives. I have never tried to narrow down to any one specialty in the computer field. I enjoy all aspects of the field whether I am writing code or administrating a network. I want to be able to apply my values in whatever specialty or aspect of computer science I find myself working. I have applied for jobs in all areas of computer science and I am open to all as long as I can keep my principles intact. I know that I will once again be starting in an entry-level position but I am very comfortable with that. I know that I have the skills to advance and go wherever I want to go in my career. I want to be able to utilize all my
skills that I have obtained as a computer scientist. These skills may be anything from writing a piece of complex code to being able to deal with difficult colleagues. My interpersonal skills have vastly improved along my journey. I believe that computer science is more than writing good code or keeping a network secure. I need to be able to work with others and be a team player. I am open to management. I tend to work well as a team player and I work well with others. I would not want to go so far in management that I do not have a chance to keep my skills intact as a computer scientist. I want to be able to do the work as a computer scientist no matter where my career takes me. Being a computer scientist is more important to me than any career advancement. I need to be doing what I enjoy doing. This is what will keep me coming to work each day and keep me motivated to keep my skills sharp. I am not sure I have long-range goals for my career other than to keep doing what makes me happy and also living and working within my own value system. I would also hope my career facilitates me keeping my skills sharp and learning new and exciting things.

Lifelong learning is very important to me. Not keeping myself current and keeping myself informed and updated hurt my career in the past. It also forced my father into early retirement, as he was not up to date on recent trends in his chosen profession. I think I have proven that is it never too late to learn new things by returning to college at 48. I want to keep learning and progressing at a computer scientist for as long as I am able to do so. The computer science field is a field that progresses and changes at a phenomenal rate and I need to be ready for new changes and progressions. I plan to do some self-education to keep myself current of new developments in the industry. This will include periodicals and journals from the computer science field. I also plan to
pursue a graduate degree as soon as I am getting started in my career. Some companies offer training in certain areas and I will take advantage of any training that will advance my skills. I think these in combination with just keeping myself available to learn will go a long way in keeping my skills as a computer scientist current.

I believe I can apply these values and objectives no matter where my career path takes me. I must always keep these front and center so I may apply them to my career. Pursuing my own set of values of objectives will go a long way in keeping me a happy and productive human being.