



Daniel Edson

Software Engineer

Raytheon

BA – Mathematics WSU '04

BS – Criminal Justice WSU '04

My current role in Raytheon is on the Software Integration Team working on the Patriot Missile System. I specialize in the area of SW that talks to the radar and maintains the targets and their associated data records. My specific project right now is a pathfinding project to integrate new technologies and hardware into Patriot. In my day to day work, I use Trigonometry, Geometry, and Calculus. I took some coding classes through work, but at the end of the day, Software Engineering and Math are very related.

The most interesting part of my job is when I travel to White Sands NM to the test range out there and see how the system is used. Just working in one particular area of the Software can leave you with tunnel vision. Seeing it all put together and working in the bigger picture is fascinating. It's also fun to talk to the actual Army troops that sit at the manstations and get their feedback.

My career started on the Software Validation team. From there, I showed an aptitude for coding, testing, and investigating problems and was moved to the Integration Team. Continued success has lead me to projects with more freedom to develop my own Software and less oversight.

I started college fresh off four years in the Marine Corps as a Criminal Justice major. I had never even given a Math degree a second thought, but it has clearly proven to be the most valuable thing I could have done. I balked at it at first when my Calculus II professor told me I should switch and be a Math Major. There are so many things that can be done with a Math degree. Some of my friends told me that Math Majors were just people who were going to be Math teachers. I can tell you from experience that my Math degree opened doors for me that would have never been opened otherwise. It is by and far the best decision I've ever made.