



## David Meyer

PhD Linguistics, 2011

### Who is your current employer and what do they do?

#### Blue Coat Systems

A network optimization and security company.

### What is your job title and what does the job entail?

Computational Linguist and Senior Threat Researcher

I maintain the Bayesian analysis software the company uses to automatically categorize websites into several dozen categories (e.g. “Business”, “Religion”, “Adult”, etc.) based on their linguistic content. I have also developed processes which apply computational linguistic techniques towards the detection of malware.

### How did you achieve your current position?

#### Education:

1986: BA in Design from Brigham Young University.

1990: MA in Linguistics from Brigham Young University.

1993: Completed PhD coursework at the University of Texas at Austin.

2011: PhD in Linguistics from Edinburgh.

#### Work:

**I have worked as a computational linguist/lexicographer for about 25 years, at the following places of employment:**

**1988 – 1995: LinguaTech International;** a very small company specializing in electronic dictionaries and terminology management software. My primary role there was the conversion of dictionary data from typeset tapes into more

computationally-suitable formats.

**1991 – 1998: Larousse SA;** a French reference publishing company. My role included the conversion of dictionary data from typeset tapes to SGML and other computationally useful formats, creation of a PC-based data entry system for their off-site lexicographers, and the comparative analysis of corpora against the information contained within Larousse titles in order to fill lacunae in dictionary entries, and supply examples of usage.

**1998 – 2003: Inxight Software;** a computational linguistics company specializing in finite state tools for morphological analysis and information extraction across a wide range of languages. My primary role was the creation and maintenance of their English (with others), French, and Arabic offerings.

**2004 – 2005: Concentrated on dissertation research.**

**2006 – present: Blue Coat Systems (see description above).**

Unlike many PhD students, who wisely complete schooling before embarking on a career, my pursuit of graduate studies has been interspersed. One advantage, however, is that by the time I entered the Edinburgh program, I had a very clear idea of the type of research I wished to pursue.

My career path has been lucky in that the field of computational linguistics has exploded since the advent of the Internet, and coincident with that increases in processing power, storage capacity, and availability of large natural language corpora.

### **How do you feel you have used the skills and/or knowledge developed during your research degree in your career to date?**

I have and am continuing to apply aspects of the Edinburgh research into my current employer's machine learning needs for automated malware detection and classification. My contribution to the company would not be nearly as valuable had I not spent the time at Edinburgh pursuing research I had a specific desire to embark upon to its logical conclusion - often not possible in the harried and constantly morphing environment of a Silicon Valley company.

In my free time, I continue to pursue several Linguistics research projects.