Richard Rashid ’77 (MA), ’80 (PhD)

Having founded Microsoft Research in 1991, Richard “Rick” Rashid oversaw its worldwide operations until 2013. Under his leadership, Microsoft Research grew to encompass more than 850 researchers who conduct basic and applied research in many areas, including security, social computing, and human-computer interaction.

Today, Rashid is the chief technology officer of Microsoft’s Applications and Services Division. Throughout his career, his research has focused on artificial intelligence, operating systems, networking, and multiprocessors.

Rashid has participated in the design and implementation of the University of Rochester's Rochester Intelligent Gateway operating system, the Rochester Virtual Terminal Management System, Carnegie Mellon University’s (CMU’s) Distributed Sensor Network Test bed, and CMU's SPICE distributed personal computing environment. In the 1970s, he co-developed one of the earliest networked computer games, "Alto Trek."

Rashid has been honored with Microsoft’s Technical Recognition Award, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Emanuel R. Piore Award, and the Special Interest Group on Operating Systems (SIGOP) Hall of Fame Award. He is a member of Royal Academy of Engineering, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the National Academy of Engineering.

Rashid is a past member of the National Science Foundation Computer Directorate Advisory Committee, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency UNIX Steering Committee, and the Computer Science Network Executive Committee. He is a former chair of the Association for Computing Machinery Software System Awards Committee and currently serves as Trustee for the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology.

Before joining Microsoft, Rashid was professor of computer science at CMU. He received his MA and PhD degrees in computer science from the University of Rochester in 1977 and 1980, and he graduated with honors from Stanford University in 1974.