C. J. "Neil" Starkey

IBM Distinguished Engineer, (Retired)

 Until retirement, Neil Starkey was an IBM Distinguished Engineer and led the Strategic Technology Team for the Chief Technology Officer of IBM Federal. Neil is widely recognized as a leader in collaboration technologies and served as the CTO at IBM's Lotus Software in 2001-2002. He came into IBM in June 1998 with the acquisition of the company he co-founded, DataBeam, which brought in core technologies to create Lotus Sametime, IBM's ground breaking real-time collaboration product. While leading development at DataBeam, he also held leadership roles for many years in the development of now widely used open standards, including JPEG and MPEG, for real-time collaboration, and multimedia communications in the International Telecommunications Union and the International Standards Organization. He also established and led the International Multimedia Telecommunications Consortium to promote the adoption of open standards and provide a forum for hundreds of companies to perform interoperability testing. He has received numerous industry awards for his contributions to open standards. His public service includes serving on IBM's global LGBT Executive Task Force and board member in organizations to support LGBTQ+ youth in Washington DC and Orlando, FL.

Mr. Starkey is a native of Kentucky and U.S. Army Vietnam combat veteran. He holds a BSEE from the University of Kentucky in Electrical Engineering (1976) and continues to support the UK College of Engineering in an advisory capacity. He was inducted into the College's Hall of Distinction in 2004 and currently resides in Orlando, FL.