

Spotlight On Interview

Initiative from GRS Global Operations VoW Council



Ken Sullivan

Interviewer: What are some of the roles you have held in HPE? Which of your previous roles are your favorite and why?

Ken Sullivan: I was hired by Digital Equipment Co. for a new service product called the "Site Assessment," just before all the mergers and split that evolved into HPE. This was before the proliferation of web documents and long before streaming video. The director hired me because he wanted to produce browser-based Assessment results to our consulting customers, and I could code in HTML.

Since then, our Solution Assessment clients have received the most advance custom output in the industry. This includes statistical presentations, technology analyses, video, interactive webs and so forth. Our Solution Assessment deliverables are designed to transform our customers who may be experiencing problems and thrashing into evangelists for HPE. The Solution Assessment program is extremely effective.

Interviewer: If you had to give advice to an HPE New Hire, what would you share with them?

Ken Sullivan: Learn constantly. The minute you stop learning you will lose not only your competitive edge, but also your ability to provide leadership in your organization.

Interviewer: What are some of your hobbies?

Ken Sullivan: Well, I have a largish family and a big old house, and it's not that I chose to learn carpentry (and plumbing and electricity), but it kind of chose me. It just turned out that way. I do a lot of remodel and rehab work. Replacing or adding doors and windows. Remodeling rooms from the studs out. In fact, I come from a family with many who work in the trades, and I have had much help in learning and completing projects. Knowing people in the trades was even more important before the YouTube era.

Also, I read a lot, mostly old books from favorite authors, but I'm open to recent volumes too.

Anything about the Apollo space program, for example. My Father worked on the Apollo space program in the '60s at Raytheon Corp., and I am sort of infatuated with it. The space ship is Apollo 11, which contained a component that my Dad designed.



The airplane I gave to my adult daughter when she had covid in the second month of the pandemic. It depicts her and me in a Cessna Skyhawk above the ocean, which is contained in a wine glass. The paint for the plane was left over from a can she used many years ago as a little girl, when we built a model of a Volkswagen together.



When the children were little, I enjoyed making scale models with them. I still do that from time to time, and sometimes the older kids will join me in the hobby room, which is nice.

Interviewer: How do you recharge after a hard day at work?

Ken Sullivan: Well, these days I work out of my home, so I might just step out of the house and go for a walk. Just a mile or 2 in the fresh air. Sometimes my wife and I will take a short walk together just around the neighborhood before dinner. Catch up with each other.

Interviewer: When was the last time you tried a new adventure?

Ken Sullivan: The closest I come to an adventure is my family's yearly vacation, usually in the mountains of New Hampshire. Mostly we keep it to hiking and swimming in mountain streams, but a couple of years we did go zip lining.

Interviewer: Who or what inspires you the most?

Ken Sullivan: Oh, I am blessed with a large extended family, and I am inspired by many close relatives whom I have esteemed since childhood. Aunts and Uncles. My grandparents. Some wore military uniforms. Some were successful entrepreneurs. All were hard working and good-natured people from prior generations. To this day I look up to them.

Interviewer: What three traits define your work habits?

Ken Sullivan:

- 1) Keep your commitments.
- 2) Learn. Always.
- 3) Whoever you're working with, clear their roadway.

Interviewer: Do you have a hidden talent?

Ken Sullivan: Well, it may not be a very useful talent today, but I got pretty good at climbing telephone poles, as I used to work on them back in the day. Before I went to college, I worked for a utility company, and that was part of the job. It was nice working "aloft" on sunny summer days, not so much in the rain or snow.