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## T'Exposé: Executive Profile

NCTA is pleased to feature our exclusive series of executive snapshots which allow members to have a quick glimpse into the inner workings of your mind – as you are one of North Carolina's most impressive leaders! Whether you're a fan of jazz, novels or fusion cuisine – our members are asking what really shapes the lives of technology's renowned innovators. Please choose at least 10–12 of the following questions, but feel free to complete the entire questionnaire. Once returned to NCTA staff, your profile will be published in a future issue of our monthly newsletter, as well as featured on our website.

Also include a brief bio as well as a photograph of your choosing (casual business photo, climbing Mt. Everest, favorite glamour shot, or your Olympic moment).

### PROFILE

Name Simon Sawyer  
 Title IT Director  
 Company Credit Suisse  
 College Worcester College, Oxford University, England  
 Degree / Major BA Mathematics and Computation, MSc Applied Statistics  
 Birthplace Nottingham, England  
 Family Married with 2 children (12 and 10)  
 How long have you lived in North Carolina? 4 years (relocated from New York)

1. What do you feel are the top three characteristics of an innovative business leader?

The ability to create ideas that run against the tide of current thought. The validated ideas are translated into business goals/objectives and all involved participants (staff, shareholders, venture firms, clients etc) led in the same direction towards those goals.

2. What piece of advice would you give to a middle school student?

Work hard to keep all your options open and enable you to achieve your goals later in life. Think about what you enjoy doing and how you would like to live your life when you're an adult and how you would like to be viewed.

3. What's the least glamorous thing you do regularly in the line of duty?

4. What skill would you most like to improve?

The ability to create ideas that run against the tide of current thought. The validated ideas are translated into business goals/objectives and all involved participants (staff, shareholders, venture firms, clients etc) led in the same direction towards those goals.

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5. What do you do to relax?

I train and compete in running, cycling and triathlon races across the State at all distances from 5K running races to Ironman triathlons and 40 mile running races. I also play tennis along with the rest of the family and I am learning to play golf with my son.

6. What books are currently on your nightstand?

7. What is your dream vacation?

I enjoy travelling and have been fortunate enough to have visited over 45 countries to date. I enjoy either a vacation to a city and immersing myself in that foreign culture or alternatively an island getaway where I can relax on the beach with my family.

8. What music is on your iPod?

A strange mixture with predominantly Christian contemporary music such as Third Day, Newsboys but also including heavy metal (e.g. Scorpions) and '70s/80s music (e.g. Abba).

9. What's your personal mantra?

Treat others fairly and with respect and deal with people in a manner in which you wish to be judged yourself. Allow others to make decisions where appropriate and grow themselves.

10. What's your favorite part of a typical day?

I usually get up early at around 5:15am and when not cycling to work (25 miles each way) I usually do some form of exercise each morning whilst everything is quiet and most people sleeping.

11. Who do you consider a mentor and why?

12. On what boards do you serve and/or what charitable causes do you support?

In addition to being a board member of NCTA, I'm also on the board of TTEC (Triangle Technology Executives Council) and my HOA. I support a variety of church initiatives and Christian charities, both local and national.

13. What's your favorite blog/who's your favorite columnist?

14. What keeps you up at night?

Sleep is not normally an issue, but my largest concerns are around the health and well-being of my family and keeping the Credit Suisse Raleigh office running smoothly, providing the best possible environment for the employees and staff and adding value to Credit Suisse so that the office can continue to expand.

15. What is your favorite North Carolina restaurant? What do you select for lunch/dinner?

Bone Fish Grill where I usually will have tuna or salmon.

