

Statistician and computer programmer

Bryce was formally trained in statistics and computer programming (Bachelor of Science in Statistics, San Francisco State University, magna cum laude). His early professional work encompassed both fields.

Bryce wrote **forecasting software** for an investment firm that was trying to predict the future price of silver on the commodities market.

Detailed information

Bryce wrote code using the complex algorithm developed by the investment firm, and even had to re-write his code in a different language when the firm switched to a different computer system. The algorithm initially proved to be marginally accurate, so the investors went back to the drawing board (literally a large board in their conference room) and improved the algorithm.

Bryce added the appropriate code to the rather large program, tested it using 20 years of historical data, and found it to be very accurate. At that point, the investment firm immediately finished Bryce's consulting engagement and took over maintenance of the code themselves (during his tenure, Bryce had taught them to read, write and modify the code to the point where they became self-sufficient with their own application). Bryce has always assumed that the investors got rich from the automation of their algorithm.

One of Bryce's other technical programming projects at that time involved a stint with a business management consulting firm. The company conducted medium to large-scale employee satisfaction survey projects for their clients. Bryce wrote and managed **statistical and reporting code** to analyze their volumes of data. He used the top software tools of the day: the FORTRAN language and Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). The results were well-received by the consulting firm.

Bryce went on to write some **business simulation code** (again using FORTRAN) for another small consulting company. His largest project for them involved the simulation of inventory movement in a company that had many different business locations. Bryce recalls that the program was fun to design and write, and it proved to be a successful predictor of the inventory needs for the end user.