Working at VMware R&D

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About me

• Ph.D. project on model-driven software development in the CPN group.

• Ph.D. thesis:

• Defended my thesis October 21, 2008.
VMware

• Founded in 1998 in Palo Alto, California.
• Initially they made money on virtual machines running on the desktop (1999).
• Later came server virtualization (2001).
• Even later came Virtual Center to manage datacenters with virtual machines (2003).
• Next:
  – Cloud computing
  – Desktop virtualization
VMware R&D in Århus

• Stay on the third floor of IT-Huset.
• 10+ people with various backgrounds.

• Modeling and managing virtualized applications.
• Open Virtualization Format
  – Specification work with DMTF.
• vCloud API.
• Storage.
How did I end up at VMware?

• Wanted a change.
• Heard about VMware through an old class mate who worked there.
• I was encouraged by the manager to send in a resume before I graduated.
Actually getting a job at VMware

• North American company = long hiring processes.
• Send in resume August 1, 2008.
• Invited to an informal interview about two weeks later (2 hours).
• Formal interview about four weeks later (7 hours).
• Contract negotiation two weeks later (1-2 hours).
Formal job interview

• Read: Joel on Software - The Guerrilla Guide to Interviewing (version 3.0)

• Interviewed by six different people for 45 minutes each. Questions:
  – My thesis, logical problems, code problems, design problems, impossible problems, …
Working in VMware R&D

• Not all that different from the life at the university.
  – Although no papers, teaching and courses 😊
• Often work with a deadline in smaller teams (2-3 people).
• People are generally enthusiastic about what they work on.
• VMware encourages taking courses and writing papers for conferences.
Adjusting to the job

• I needed to catch up on a lot of stuff.
  – Products, design of solutions, code!
• Many people with various background:
  – 7 Cand.scient, 2 Ph.D., and one datamatiker.
• Learning when I had done enough.
  – SCRUM.
  – Bi-weekly status reports.
Thank you!