Computer Science @ Virginia Tech

Cal Ribbens (ribbens@vt.edu)
Things you already know...

- Computing is a big deal.
- The world is flat.
What Is Computer Science?

**Study** and **Design** Computing Systems to
- Solve Problems
- Build Communities
- Enrich Lives
- Create Worlds
- Manage Information
- Invent the Future

Users
- Application Software
- Computing Systems
  - Software
  - Hardware

**CS**

- HCI
- Multimedia
- Internet Programming
- Bioinformatics
- Database
- Software Engineering
- Algorithms
- Operating Systems
- Parallel Computing
- Computer Org.
About the Department

- A 44 year old department
- ~36 full-time faculty in Blacksburg
- ~615 undergraduate majors
- ~225 graduate students
- Accredited by ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology)
Where is the CS Department?

- Undergraduate Learning Center
- Advising Center
- Labs to support upper level courses in
  - Systems
  - Software Engineering
  - HCI

McBryde Hall
Where is the CS Department?

Torgersen Hall

- Digital Libraries
- Scientific Computing
- Computational Biology & Bioinformatics
- Software Engineering
- Data Analytics
- VT CAVE & Visionarium
Where is the CS Department?

Knowledgeworks II (CRC)

- 20+ faculty
- 100+ graduate students
- Two centers and associated laboratories:
  - Center for Human-Computer Interaction (CHCI)
  - Center for High-End Computing Systems (CHECS)
- Main office, technical support, ...
- BT every 20 minutes (CRC Shuttle)
CS Compared ...

(Completely unofficial and subjective)

- Less hours to graduate
- No ESM classes
- More abstract, less physical
- More design and implementation experiences
- More immediate feedback
- More user-centric
- Combines better with other majors
CS Compared ...

MORE JOBS
WITH A GREATER VARIETY
OF COMPANIES
Who hires VT CS grads?

Plus 65 more companies: https://csrg.cs.vt.edu/companies

84 Companies at Fall 2015 CS Career Fair
CS Compared ...

- More programming
- More misunderstood?
- More frustrating?
- Less clearly in engineering?
- Less cool?
CS Compared ...

- More entrepreneurial
- More dynamic
- More ubiquitous
- More creative
- More powerful
Next steps?

- These slides: people.cs.vt.edu/ribbens
- CS @ VT home page: www.cs.vt.edu
- CS Academic Advisors (114 McBryde):
  - Terry Arthur (arthurt@vt.edu)
  - Libby Bradford (bradfolg@vt.edu)
  - Greg Farris (gpfarris@vt.edu)
- Take CS 1114