

Stephen Wolfram

A New Kind of Computer Science and the Future of Computing



This talk was part of the ACM Reflections Projections 2005 Student Computing Conference.

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<http://www.acm.uiuc.edu/conference>

Dr. Wolfram was educated at Eton, Oxford, and Caltech, receiving his Ph.D. in theoretical physics in 1979 at the age of 20. His early work in physics and computer science was recognized by a MacArthur award in 1981. In the early 1980s he made a series of now-classic discoveries about systems known as cellular automata, leading to numerous applications in physics, mathematics, computer science, biology, and other fields. In 1986 he founded Wolfram Research, Inc. and began the creation of *Mathematica*—now the world's leading software system for technical computing and symbolic programming (and tool which made *A New Kind of Science* possible). Over the past decade Wolfram has divided his time between leadership of his company and pursuit of basic science. The results of Wolfram's fifteen years of work were presented for the first time in his book, *A New Kind of Science* (May 2002). An instant bestseller, *A New Kind of Science* constituted international science news and quickly emerged as one of the most-discussed science books in decades.



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