

# Biography of an Influential Software Engineer

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Julia Zhenglei Liuson

*Climbed the stairs for five years to get to the top, an inspiration to all, especially women in technology who promotes woman in STEM by proactively asking for what you need personally in order to do a great job professionally.*

## About Liuson

Julia Liuson is the Corporate Vice President of Visual Studio at Microsoft Corporation. Liuson partakes in the business and software development for Visual Studio and the .NET framework and Visual Studio Code, all programming languages, user interfaces and works in the team development using testing tools. In an interview with eWEEK, Liuson stated that she is working to help developers, no matter what platform are language their based on, to be successful with tools which enable innovative scenarios.

## Early Life

Julia Zhenglei Liuson was born in 1970 in Shanghai, China. In 1991, she received a bachelor's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from University of Washington.

After graduation, Liuson joined Microsoft. She worked as a software engineer first on the Access team and later Visual InterDev, the precursor to Visual Studio. In addition to the previous statement, Liuson held many management and technical positions at Microsoft. She served as development manager, and then as Partner Product Unit Manager for Visual Basic. She was later named General Manager of Visual Studio Business Applications, where she was responsible for enabling developers to easily build business applications on Microsoft server and service platforms. Previously, Liuson has served as General Manager for

Server and Tools business from Microsoft Shanghai office in China for two years while running engineering teams.

## Current work

At this current moment, in this point in time, Liuson lives in the Seattle area near Microsoft, with her husband and their only child, Harry.

Liuson is a big deal at Microsoft. She has worked with the company for over twenty-five years. Her current job is Corporate Vice President of the Microsoft developer division. She has climbed a great deal of steps to get to the position she is in now by a means of hard work, dedication and a passion. Her team builds all the compiler technologies Microsoft ships. C++, C#, F#, Visual Basic, TypeScript and they also build all the Runtimes, like .NET Framework, .Net Core, Visual Studio, Visual Studio Code and many others.

To oversee a large software company's biggest software portfolio is challenging. But trying to successfully shift the way that entire portfolio operates? Shifting the working culture on a scale that she manages would be a change unlike any company that the world has ever seen.

Being a Software Engineering at the beginning of her career, she understands them and want to help them. To her they are her customers, in the current position that she holds. Liuson says that it is" *... my job is to make them successful. But this job has actually changed. In that mission transformation, it really meant we cannot be Windows only. We really need to embrace the open source ecosystem, and so the way we take those things to action..."*.

The products Liuson's team are building are used and appreciated. Liuson points to some recent switches large companies have undertaken, such as Facebook moving several key projects from within the Javascript Node ecosystem to Microsoft's TypeScript programming language.

Measured by the number of employees contributing to projects on GitHub, a large percentage of developers around the world live in Microsoft's Visual Studio Code every day.

Microsoft's cloud platform Azure sports some of the largest brands in the world as customers like Samsung, eBay, Boeing, Dell, and even Apple, who host their iCloud jointly with AWS. Even though Microsoft is a newcomer to the open source world, its products are universally adopted and enjoyed.

## Why she is inspiring

Liuson's success is inspiring and motivating to all. Her hard work and dedication got up the stairs in success and her talent helps a lot of people world-wide. Liuson's work has and will have an impact on a lot of Software Engineers and a lot of other people with other roles. Her work is incredible, and she will continue to enable the company to grow and expand into better things in the years ahead in her career.

Liuson's determination and hardworking attitude is truly inspiring. The path she took, and her growth is what I aspire to and want to be like. For now, my desirable future is to graduate with a master's degree and work as a software engineer in a firm for a couple of years. Then I would hope to go higher and become project manager and even general manager like Liuson. I do not want to just code for my career, I want to make a difference, no matter how big or small, and make a positive impact to others, like my co-workers and the people using the products. I want the products that I am involved in building to be appreciated and used by many.

Originally, I this goal of mine was ludicrous and unachievable. But after watching an interview with Julia Liuson on the internet, I felt more motivated and relieved to know that if she did it and is continually doing more, that I could achieve my goal and climb similar steps that she did.

## Resources

- Techvibes Article about Liuson's success

<https://techvibes.com/2019/04/09/five-years-to-the-top-microsofts-software-boss-julia-liuson>

- Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julia\\_Liuson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julia_Liuson)

- Peoplepill article on Liuson's biography

<https://peoplepill.com/people/julia-liuson/>