Dream Big

Write it down and make it plain.

Curiosity

Taking toys, racetracs, legos, radios, televisions, watches, speakers, anything with a screw apart and putting them back together again. I dream I will one day know how this toy or electronic works.

My parents give me an electronics kit and some tools.

Creativity

A team of us get together and build a “robot” like the klunky robots in the 1970’s movies out of tin cans and cardboard. It has lights, speaks (through an old portable cassette player that looked like a toaster) and plays our favorite music. I build rockets we launch into the air, model planes, play with remote controlled planes and marvel at a video game called “Pong” from Sears. I dream one day I will make the robot smarter and the games more fun.

Programming

For ten weeks in the summer I go to the local community college and learn how to program a language called “Basic” in a main frame PDP 11 computer. The computer looks like a Metal book case six feet tall and four feet wide. I make checking and other mundane math tasks easier and automatic. I dream one day I will write a story using the computer that writes the next chapter by itself.

Art and Design

I spend my summer learning how to do building architecture and design as well creating new designs and concepts. I buy electronics equipment to help me create mix tapes and DJ. I dream I can control what my house looks like and everything in it.

Math and Computers

My friend gets a TRS-80 (pronounced Trash 80) computer from Radio Shack and we get them at school too! We program once again in Basic but this time in class we program all kinds of assignments and some of them are fun. I find out the major I was thinking of for college is in a crowded field and not the highest on the salary scale. My best friend decides he wants to be a medical doctor and enrolls in a pre-med program. I find out that electrical engineers end up doing a lot of things I like to do including computers and decide to look into that field. I dream of being able to “afford” a lifestyle I want and make all those years of math work for me. I dream of making that robot talk and walk.

Research and Development

I take all the math and science I’ve had and begin working on how to make a robot understand me. I use some voice recognition software and program a robotic arm to perform manufacturing tasks based on voice commands. I dream of not just making the robot respond to my voice, but understand what I’m saying.

Realization

I know how those toys work now and I know why the things I took apart did what they did and why. I discover how to make a machine learn through computers and teach them to solve old and new problems. I teach them how to speak and understand, I teach them how to see and teach how to do things never done before. I help the machines that control the communications networks learn too! I help them respond to large spikes in traffic demand when a touchdown is caught or when something exciting happens without anyone ever knowing. I help mobile networks automatically figure out how to best treat each user to get the best experience possible. I not only know how it works, I create new ways for it to work. I have seen my dream of knowing how it works, and making it smarter and making it understand, but I’m not done. I dream that smart machines will learn to talk to each other and figure out new solutions to old problems faster. I keep dreaming until the end.

<http://youtu.be/fXTRcsxG7IQ>