



## Curriculum Vitae Olivier Houzé



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After his graduation from the glorious Ecole Polytechnique (France) in 1982, Olivier Houzé was granted an MSc scholarship in Petroleum Engineering at Stanford University by Flopetrol-Johnston (Schlumberger). He had never heard about Stanford but accepted the scholarship a millisecond after finding the place on the map. He completed his Master in a record nine months, research included, but cheated by taking some easy Math units and scraping a few C's. He was feted by his advisers (Hank Ramey and Roland Horne) as one of the most forgettable Stanford students ever. Actually... to this day no one really remembers him ever being there.

He joined Flopetrol in 1983 and started as a field engineer where he was successively assigned the positions of watch-the-dead-weight-tester-but-please-do-not-touch-anything, well test helper, well test operator, well test chief operator, Electric Line Service chief operator and Interpretation engineer.

He spent most of his field time in the Middle East, especially in Yemen, the UAE, Egypt, Pakistan and Oman with a couple of missions to the North Sea. He was on the first wells in Yemen for Hunt Oil where, when the Bedouins arrived on the scene, he successfully bartered for his life in exchange for the oil remaining in the separator. Wearing orange coveralls long before they became fashionable on YouTube, he left Yemen before they returned to ask for his head.

Having hammered enough chickens, learnt all the jokes about O-rings, engineers and frogs, poisoned himself for life with mercury sampling and wasted sufficient rig days to the industry, he was at last neutralized and transferred to the Flopetrol R&D center in Melun. He was assigned to a project to develop a production log interpretation software he unwisely christened PMS (Production Monitoring Software). It took him two years to find out why the bloody Brits were laughing their heads off at his presentations and, in a sulk, decided that Pressure Transient Analysis was much more fun. Besides the humiliation, PTA had only two lines to look at and fathom out what was going on as opposed to all those wriggly PL tracks that get far too confusing. So, the course of history was set.

He left in 1987, when Flopetrol euphemistically merged with Schlumberger, and co-founded a new consulting company to be called KAPPA with his former colleague Dominique Bourdet. Olivier developed Saphir Generation 1 as he could not afford to buy a package with which to consult in his exciting new venture. Things got worse when he could not even sell his services to the French. But they did ask him if they could buy his software if he would be good enough to leave the building. Completely surprised that he now co-owned a software company he became KAPPA Managing Director in 1991. In 1992 he stopped programming when it became too complicated, and since then he has been focusing on designing toolbar buttons, the color of the WEB site background, feeding the fishes of his aquarium and lots of other important things.

Olivier Houzé has written and reviewed a few SPE papers, taught a few courses and attended forums whenever they were in nice places. He was an accidental co-author of the 2009 Pressure Transient Testing SPE Monograph, and the main author of the KAPPA Dynamic Data Analysis book, by far the best-selling book in the oil industry (because it is free). In 2012 a bug in the SPE database put him forward as both an SPE Distinguished Lecturer and an improbable member of the SPE Board of directors, where he 'served' in 2012-2015 as Technical Director for Reservoir. Three years of riot among the 17,000 impacted reservoir engineers and the resulting oil crisis were needed to get rid of him, but not before he was promised the 2019 Lester C. Uren Award as a golden parachute. He finally returned to oblivion after co-authoring an SPEE Monograph as a self-proclaimed Arps Master.

After 40 years in the industry Olivier Houzé has at last found something useful to do. He is now the official skipper of the KAPPA boat on which he may take you to see dolphins off the Riviera coast.



## Curriculum Vitae Olivier Houzé



Born in Ivory Coast in 1959 and having served as a French officer, Olivier obtained his engineering degree from Ecole Polytechnique (France) in 1982, and an MSc in Petroleum Engineering from Stanford University (USA). He worked four years with Flopetrol, obtaining field experience and working in R&D before leaving in 1987, with Dominique Bourdet, to co-found KAPPA Engineering where he continues to actively lead the company today as its Managing Director.

### **1983-1985: Field engineer with Flopetrol (Schlumberger)**

Trained as a graduate engineer in France on well testing, slickline and e-line operations. Subsequently based in Sharjah (UAE), worked as a field engineer and qualified as well test chief-operator and test supervisor in the UAE, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Egypt, Qatar and the North Sea.

### **1985-1987: Research & Development engineer with Flopetrol (Schlumberger)**

Upon transfer to the R&D office in Melun, led a software development project in production log analysis from design and coding to field release. Simultaneously provided field training and support to Schlumberger and client engineers throughout the world in Pressure Transient Analysis.

### **1987-1991: Technical Director of KAPPA Engineering**

Co-founded KAPPA Engineering with Dominique Bourdet and wrote analytical solutions for ELF Norway. Thereafter developed the first generation of Saphir, now the industry standard software in Pressure Transient Analysis. Trained hundreds of engineers worldwide in the wake of the Saphir global deployment.

### **1991-present: Managing Director of KAPPA Engineering**

Leading KAPPA from a single niche product towards an integrated software solution covering a large section of Reservoir and Production Engineering, in the context of intelligent fields (2000s), Unconventional Resources (2010s) and now Automation (2020). Having grown KAPPA from two to more than a hundred employees, and whilst being heavily involved in commercial and administrative challenges, his primary keeps a technical focus on the company.

### **SPE credentials**

- Member since 1983
- Omega member of the SPE Foundation
- Attendee / committee member / co-chair of SPE Conferences, ATWs, Forums & Summits
- Author of several papers on Pressure Transient Analysis and related issues
- Former member of the SPE review and SPE Well Testing committees
- Co-author of the 2009 SPE Monograph 23 on Pressure Transient Testing
- Presentations at numerous SPE chapters and conferences
- SPE Distinguished Lecturer (2012-2013) – 35 lectures in 25 countries
- SPE Board Member, Technical Director for Reservoir (2012-2015)
- Member of the SPE Reservoir Advisory Committees (2015-present)
- Co-author of the 2016 SPEE Monograph 4 on Unconventional Reserves
- Recipient of the 2019 Lester C. Uren Award