

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Charles Phillips, Jr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Phillips, Charles E., Jr., 1959-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Charles Phillips, Jr.,
Dates:	April 11, 2014
Bulk Dates:	2014
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:04:17).
Abstract:	Corporate chief executive Charles Phillips, Jr. (1959 -) is the CEO of Infor. He also served as president of Oracle from 2004 to 2010, and is a founder and board member of Phillips Charitable Organizations. Phillips was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 11, 2014, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2014_099
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Corporate executive Charles E. Phillips, Jr. was born in June of 1959 in Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended the United States Air Force Academy, where he received his B.S. degree in computer science in 1981. Phillips served first as a second lieutenant, and then as captain in the United States Marine Corps, 2nd Battalion, 10th Marines from 1981 to 1986 at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina. He received his M.B.A degree from Hampton University in 1986 and his J.D. degree from the New York Law School in 1993.

In 1986, Phillips was named vice president of software for the Bank of New York Mellon Corporation. He worked as senior vice president of SoundView Technology Group from 1990 to 1993, and senior vice president of Kidder Peabody from 1990 to 1994. Phillips then landed a job as a principal with Morgan Stanley Dean Witter's Institutional Securities Division in 1994, and was promoted to managing director in 1995. Then, in 2003, Phillips was hired by Oracle Corporation in Redwood Shores, California, as executive vice president of strategy, partnerships, and business development. He was appointed president and a member of the board of directors of Oracle in 2004, where he remained until 2010. In 2010, Phillips was named chief executive officer of Infor, an ERP software provider headquartered in New York City. He serves on the boards of Infor, Viacom Corporation, Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York Law School, the American Museum of Natural History, the United States Air Force Academy Endowment Fund, and Posse Foundation. Phillips is also a board member of his family foundation, Phillips Charitable Organizations, which provides financial aid for single parents, students interested in engineering, and wounded veterans. In February 2009, he was appointed as a member of the President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board in order to provide U.S. President Barack Obama and his administration with advice and counsel in addressing the late-2000s recession.

Phillips was recognized by *Institutional Investor* magazine as the Number One Enterprise Software Industry Analyst from 1994 to 2003. He was also named by *Black Enterprise* magazine as one of the Top 50 African Americans on Wall Street in 2002.

Charles Phillips was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 11, 2014.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Charles Phillips, Jr. was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on April 11, 2014, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Corporate chief executive Charles Phillips, Jr. (1959 -) is the CEO of Infor. He also served as president of Oracle from 2004 to 2010, and is a founder and board member of Phillips Charitable Organizations.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Phillips, Charles E., Jr., 1959-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Phillips, Charles E., Jr., 1959---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Corporate Chief Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Charles Phillips, Jr., April 11, 2014. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Phillips, Jr., Section A2014_099_001_001, TRT: 1:30:51 ?

Charles Phillips, Jr. was born on June 10, 1959 in Little Rock, Arkansas. His father, Charles Phillips, Sr., was born in Clinton, Oklahoma. Phillips' grandmother was a Seminole Indian from Oklahoma and his grandfather was

from Texas. When he turned sixteen, Phillips' father joined the U.S. Air Force. After twenty years in the Air Force, he attended Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. He later received his law degree and practiced law in Atlanta, Georgia. Phillips' mother, Jessie Phillips, was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas and met Phillips' father when he was stationed in Little Rock. Phillips has three brothers, Kennie, Tony, and Carlos, who are all separated by at least five years. From ages seven through twelve, Phillips lived in Madrid, Spain, where he attended an American school, heard about the current event, and ate Spanish foods. Inspired by his father, Phillips later enrolled at the Air Force Academy in El Paso County, Colorado.

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Phillips, Jr., Section A2014_099_001_002, TRT: 2:33:15 ?

Charles Phillips, Jr. talks about the opportunities that the U.S. Air Force afforded his father as a way to leave Oklahoma and to provide for his family. After leaving Madrid, Spain, Phillips' family returned to Little Rock, Arkansas for a few months before settling in Atlanta, Georgia after his father retired. In Atlanta, Phillips attended Lakeshore High School, where he became captain of the basketball team and student body president. While in high school, Phillips began to build personal computers and write software at a local Heathkit store. After graduating from high school in 1977, Phillips enrolled in the Air Force Academy in El Paso County, Colorado to study engineering. His recommendation for the Academy came from U.S. Vice President Nelson Rockefeller. Phillips describes the intense academic and military environment of the Academy, as well as the population of 200 African Americans out of a total of 4,000 cadets. Phillips' class was the second class of women to attend the school.

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Phillips, Jr., Section A2014_099_001_003, TRT: 3:26:29 ?

Charles Phillips, Jr. talks about the pressures of attending the Air Force Academy in El Paso County, Colorado and the difficulty of increasing African American attendance. In 1981, Phillips graduated from the Academy, while choosing to serve his commission as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. After training at the Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia, Phillips was stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina. While at Camp Lejeune, Phillips married Karen Phillips, whom he met in high school. He learned leadership skills and was part of the first wave of Marines to assist in the use of computers and the automating of equipment and food for the battalion. In 1986, Phillips received his M.B.A. from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia and began working on Wall Street at the Bank of New York Mellon Corporation. Phillips later worked at SoundView Technology Group and Kidder, Peabody & Co. before being recruited by Morgan Stanley in 1994.

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Phillips, Jr., Section A2014_099_001_004, TRT: 4:31:33 ?

Charles Phillips, Jr. began working on Wall Street in 1986, where he specialized in analyzing software companies and explaining the intricacies of technology to investors. Phillips capitalized on his background to understand trends and the viability of potential products. In 1994, Phillips joined the technology group at Morgan Stanley with Frank Quattrone and Mary Meeker and became managing director in 1995. From 1994 until 2003, Phillips was named the number one software analyst by Institutional Investor magazine. At this time, he also worked with tech leaders like Netscape's Marc Andreessen, Oracle's Larry Ellison, and Google's Eric Schmidt. He reflects on software design in the United States and

worldwide, the origins of Silicon Valley, and his strategies for recognizing innovative technologies, which helped him avoid the dot-com bubble and bust. In 2003, Phillips left Morgan Stanley to work for Larry Ellison and the Oracle Corporation, where he was in charge of an aggressive acquisition strategy.

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Phillips, Jr., Section A2014_099_001_005, TRT: 5:31:13 ?

Charles Phillips, Jr. became a vice president at the Oracle Corporation in 2003, where he developed an aggressive strategy for acquiring technology companies like its competitor, PeopleSoft, in 2004. In 2004, Phillips was also named president of Oracle Corporation. He describes the difference between enterprise software, which is used by businesses and governments, and the personal software that consumers are more familiar with. He also describes the history of cloud computing, and how its popularity has increased significantly since the 1970s as it became cheaper and more secure. In 2010, Phillips became CEO of Infor and began to redesign the company, moving its headquarters from Alpharetta, Georgia to New York City, New York and developing its in-house creative design agency Hook & Loop. Phillips reflects on his strategies for attracting "left-brain creative" designers to an enterprise software world and on the importance of using design to create innovative software that is easy to use.

Video Oral History Interview with Charles Phillips, Jr., Section A2014_099_001_006, TRT: 6:30:56 ?

Charles Phillips, Jr. became CEO of Infor in 2010, bringing three of his co-workers from the Oracle Corporation with him: Stephan Scholl, Duncan Angove, and Pam Murphy. In 2011, Infor acquired Lawson Software, a company which provides technology systems in healthcare. Phillips reflects on the benefit of the Affordable Care Act to healthcare software providers and the future of big data and automation in healthcare and retail. He describes Infor's approach to cloud computing as well as its open source databases and operating systems. He reflects on his own career path and his philanthropic work, including the creation of the Phillips Charitable Foundation, which helps provide quick, direct support to single mothers in need without any institutional overhead. Phillips ends the interview by describing his hopes and concerns for the African American community, reflecting on the legacy of the post-Civil Rights generation of African Americans, and reflecting on his personal legacy.