



## A Short Chat with Ben Askarinam, Founder and CEO of Interface Masters Technologies

For over 26 years, [Interface Masters](#) has provided custom and off-the-shelf innovative networking solutions to OEMs, Fortune 100, and startup companies. Headquartered in Silicon Valley, the company designs and manufactures all products in San Jose. Based on MIPS, ARM, PowerPC, x86 processors, and switch fabrics up to 12.8T, Interface Masters appliance models enable OEMs to significantly reduce time-to-market. The solutions are proven reliable, pre-tested, pre-integrated, long-life appliances that meet the most challenging networking requirements. What does the Founder and CEO, Ben Askarinam have to do with all of this? Everything.

### ***You have had a successful history with Interface Masters, are there specific moments that stand out?***

There have been so many moments over the years. Working in Silicon Valley has presented me with access to great technology and innovation. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to partner with startup and Fortune 100 companies on great projects for both custom and OEM. So yes, there are many moments that stand out. Keeping up with the myriad of changes that have sprung up in the market within the last two decades has been challenging. But for a company full of engineers that's exciting. Working with top-notch engineers and staff is what makes the business successful and a welcome challenge.

### ***Made in the U.S.A. is a big deal for you and the company. What drives your passion for products designed and manufactured in the USA?***

That's true. It is a big deal for us and we know it is for our customers. A big deal because the design and manufacturing of a product sets the foundation for the products being sold. Made in the U.S.A. products assure our customers that our systems are [secure](#), well-designed, and that our customers can depend upon them. Made in the U.S.A. is also important because we know our supply chain from start to finish. We oversee the design, manufacture and support of each product that is shipped. With several examples of [adversarial nation states](#), and state backed

Cyberattacks making headlines in the news the last few years, hardware can be an easy target to implant data tracking devices and obtain intellectual property on networking hardware solutions manufactured elsewhere.

### ***What new hardware solutions have been introduced, and what is the company working on?***

Recently we announced [Tahoe 8828](#) and [Tahoe 8830](#), two new solutions that focus on high performance multi-core CPUs, a modular design and offload processing using our proprietary Intel-based DataSlammer™ technology. Noteworthy is that almost any Nvidia GPU can be used, adding artificial intelligence and machine learning for the offloading process. There is also a configurable I/O module supporting a range of 1G to 100G ports. Solutions like these represent the direction we are moving in, namely expertly designed, more advanced solutions meeting our advancing enterprise applications. Right now, our work fluctuates between custom work projects with our partners and attending to our off-the-shelf solutions.



Tahoe 8830 Networking Appliance

### ***Charity reflects a great deal about Interface Masters' culture. How has charity become a priority over the last 26 years?***

I made a commitment when I started the company to be grateful and to [give back](#) to the community. That was the start, and opportunities kept presenting themselves. Somewhere along the way the employees caught this giving spirit and began participating in many charitable activities. We give a little, and other times more. A while back, the Masks Now Coalition was a group of volunteers making Covid-19 masks. We helped them with supplies and storage. Other opportunities? Second Harvest food bank, and local charity events and activities (races, walkathons) are other ways we gave back. Yes, charity is a big deal for us, and helping others is a win/win for everyone.

Ben Askarinam, [profile](#) on [www.interfacemasters.com](#)  
Learn more about Interface Masters via [Linkedin](#) or [Twitter](#).