

Husam Yaghi, Ph.D.
Creator, Innovator, Disruptor



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Summary of Professional Experience

Created the first startup in Saudi Arabia to offer blockchain solutions; a systems integrator of solutions from distinguished international partners. Crafted the strategic plan and searched for the best and most compatible international technology partners. Built a strong dedicated team, educated and coached the team, and within less than a year, the company won contracts; which were reported on by international media. Ateon now is a known and recognized player in Saudi Arabia.

Coached my teenage boys into entrepreneurship at age 13 & 14. They built three companies – BlocMint, AidMaid, and Chillax, pitched and presented at regional conferences, and became stars in the region (www.aidmaid.net/gallery.html). My daughter, at age 10, created an initiative “Smiles” to bring some joy to the less fortunate. She has expanded the initiative and will continue to develop it. <http://smiles.aidmaid.net/>

Proud of my extensive hands-on professional experience with over 20 years of diversified experience in USA and over 15 years of experience at senior executive roles in Saudi Arabia.

To pay my dues to humanity, I’m engaged in several social entrepreneurship and community service initiatives.

May 2016 - Present

Vice President – Alhamrani Universal
Formerly, President & Co-Founder - Ateon

The owners have decided to merge Ateon with Alhamrani Universal to strengthen both companies. Alhamrani Universal (www.universal.com.sa) has been serving the financial sector since 1976 focusing on services around Diebold ATM solutions, Point of Sale terminals, cash management, certification, and physical security. Ateon with its futuristic solutions complements Alhamrani Universal's offerings.

www.ateon.net is a startup venture by Husam Yaghi for Alhamrani Group. Ateon was created to be among the first in the region and first in the country to offer Blockchain solutions to address business needs and pain areas. I built the company from scratch, went through the pain of commercial registration, obtaining the necessary licenses, office preparation, staff recruitment, website design, branding, and the making of sales presentations. Within 2 years, Ateon has become a leader in the Blockchain space according to several publications. <http://www.ateon.net/latest-news/>

Built Blockchain-based use cases for digital voting, document management, financial inclusion, social cryptocurrency, POS transactions settlement, ATM access, password-less login, digital identity, just to name a few.

March 2005 - Present

Group Chief Information Officer - Alhamrani Group

Group IT provides all IT and automation services to 5 diversified companies of Alhamrani Group.

The Group is one of a respected well-known conglomerate in Saudi Arabia with business operations in construction, lubricant oil, automotive, consumer finance, manufacturing, and technology services.

The technology services company is a leading company operating in several Arabian Gulf countries with focus: banking solutions, security solutions, and retails solutions.

Achievements:

- Business analysis and planning for the Group's various business sectors: manufacturing, information technology, financial services, and automotive dealership.
- Served on the Chairman's advisory board (Business Focus Group) for two years.
- Was a key member of the budget review committee which evaluated all funding requests and staff incentives in 2008.

May 2017 – Present

Advisor – BlocMint

BlocMint was conceived in 2017 and is registered in Jordan, Delaware, and California. It also has an office in Lebanon. It began as a partner to Ateon (www.ateon.net) outside Saudi Arabia, where both companies benefited from the vast experience of the team. BlocMint is a Blockchain solutions provider with special solutions for Shariah compliant finance.

BlocMint was founded by my two sons, who began their entrepreneurial journey at age 13 and 14.

December 2013 – August 2016

Advisor & Mentor – Chillax Corp

Chillax was a startup venture by my two teenage sons. I started them on this journey when they were 13 and 14 years old. Their first product was a social network for teens only. Another one is AidMaid, a personal emergency assistant mobile app which was downloaded by users from 78 countries. They created plans to integrate with Google Glass for traffic police and ingestibles for physicians. They pitched to icon investors like Mr. Fadi Ghandour and they spoke at entrepreneurial events in the region. <http://aidmaid.net/gallery.html>

January 2008 - Present

Founder & Chief Editor – The Arab Experts Portal

Created the Arab Experts Portal and associated mobile app to promote good Arabic content on the Internet. This is a community service initiative funded and managed by myself entirely. Unfortunately, work and family obligations do not permit me to contribute as much as desired. <http://www.expertarabs.com>

June 2002 – March 2005

Vice President – Kahmas Technology Company

Head of Corporate Research - EzAlsahra Holding Group

Ez Alsahra Holding was a start-up group of five diversified companies by one of the most successful Arab neurosurgeons, Dr. Nayef Alrodhan, to whom I was reporting. The group's mission was to providing cutting edge solutions in security, technology, healthcare and aquaculture.

I had dual roles: the task of building Kahmas, a technology solutions provider, and conducting research on cutting edge innovations for the rest of the group's companies.

Jan. 1998 – June 2002

Director - Data Networks & Security - Vinnell Arabia
(Saudi Arabian National Guard)

Recruited from USA as an Expert Advisor to the National Guard via Vinnell Corporation. Appointed as Director for Data Networks and Security.

Achievements:

- Tutored the young Saudi staff on data networks, data cabling, and security to enhance their skills to meet work requirements.
- Interacted with 5-star Generals and understood first-hand the requirements for a data networks and security infrastructure that would go on to serve as one of the military's backbone networks.
- Engineered and managed infrastructure automation of the numerous sites for the National Guard in the Kingdom; which included mobile vehicles, ammunition warehouses, and military intelligence units.
- Played a vital role in the initiatives to modernize technology services in the National Guard.

Jan. 1987 – Dec. 1997

Assistant Professor and Telecom Advisor, Southern University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana USA

Highlights:

- Repeatedly, recognized as an outstanding professor of Electrical Engineering.
- Taught four courses in Digital Systems, Microprocessors Design, Numerical Methods, and Digital Communication.
- Served as Telecommunication Advisor to the University's President and Director for the Engineering Data Center which had about 1500 users.
- Connected the entire university to the Internet in 1991 via a grant from the National Science Foundation which I had engineered (http://search.engrants.com/project/lbw0is/subr_nsfnet_connection_via_suranet)
- Collaborated with professors at Cornell University, Stanford University, UC Berkley, and others to build online multimedia-based courses as a part of a national engineering education database (<http://www.synthesis.org>)
- Installed and managed the college's BitNet email system via a grant from the National Science Foundation (http://search.engrants.com/project/iPnzgW/enhancement_of_the_high_performance_multimedia_computer_communications_laboratory)
- Secured more than USD 100 million in grant research funds from IBM, NASA, Department of Defense, Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation.
- Recognized as a community service activist and a young business leader.

January 1985 – August 1987

Manager & Systems Administrator - Engineering Data Center,
Southern University (USA)

Self-taught systems administration of the IBM 4341 mainframe. Learnt REXX programming language and built several applications for the College of Engineering. Maintained DASD's, Communication Controllers, and debugged systems logs.

January 1986 – May 1986

Co-Founder – GloboNet

This was a family business and the first company in Louisiana (USA) to provide Internet access to home users and small businesses. The venture failed because of management style differences between co-founders.

August 1983 – May 1985

Lab and Research Assistant - Electrical Engineering Department,
Southern University (USA)

While pursuing my bachelor degree in Electrical Engineering, the chairman of the department was impressed with my skills and attitude towards learning, he awarded me an assistantship to assist him on his microprocessor and digital systems research projects. It was a rewarding experience.

May 1981 – August 1982

Ground radar crew member and data entry operator - NASA Remote Sensing
Lab, Kansas University (USA)

Started with crop samples collection then I was promoted to process samples in the lab and enter the data on the system. It was an amazing experience at a young age to work with high profile engineers in a very high tech environment.

Consulting:

January 1987 – December 1997

Served as a consultant, contractor, or member of technical staff:

- Intelligent Bilingual Computing, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (USA)
- IBM Corporation in Kingston, New York (USA)
- Bell Communications Research, Piscataway, New Jersey (USA)
- Department of Energy (USA)
- National Science Foundation (USA)
- National Aeronautic & Space Agency - NASA (USA)
- Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (USA)
- Louisiana Board of Regents, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (USA)

Education

Doctorate (Ph.D.), Computer Science, (USA)

Master's degree, Computer Science, (USA)

Bachelor's degree, Electrical Engineering, (USA)

Publications & Presentations

Book:

- Title: Petroleum Reservoir Simulation: Using 3D 3-Phase Parallel Finite Elements.
Publisher: LAP Lambert Academic Publishing
ISBN: ISBN 978-3-659-39345-7
<https://www.amazon.com/Petroleum-Reservoir-Simulation-Dimensional-Parallel/dp/3659393452>

Conferences:

- A High Speed Communications Network Topology Proposal for Upgrading Gulfnet. The 13th National Computer Conference, Nov. 22-26, 1992, KSA
- Object Oriented Database Programming: A Case Study. Seventh Annual ACM Conference on Object-Oriented Programming Systems, Languages, and Applications, Oct. 18-22, 1992, Canada
- FDDI: A Solution To Multimedia Networking. Pacific Rim International Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Sept. 23-25, 1992, Korea
- FDDI: A Solution to Multimedia Networking". *Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference and Exhibition on Multilingual Computing* (London: Center of Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge), 1992
- Let's Learn Arabic: The Multimedia Way ! 3rd International Conference and Exhibition on Multi-lingual Computing, Dec. 10-12, 1992, UK
- Issues In Computer Security Management. European Symposium on Research in Computer Security, Nov. 23-25, 1992, France
- Teaching Engineering with Multimedia: A Consortium Approach. *Frontiers In Education*, Nov. 11-14, 1992, USA
- Human Factors In Computer Security. 12th World Computer Congress, Sept. 7-11, 1992, Spain
- Multimedia Database Prototype Design, International Technology and Education Conference, March 16-21, 1992, France
- Multimedia Database Design (re-print). *Computer Times Magazine*, Saudi Computer Society, Spring 1992, KSA
- AI Trends in Computer Viruses Control. IEEE SOUTHEAST CON91 Conference Proceedings, April 1991, USA

- Analysis of the Spoked Ring Performance Using the Slotted Ring Protocol. IEEE SOUTHEAST CON91 Conference, April 1991, USA
- Cooling Tower Water Ozonation at Southern University. 25th Intersociety Energy Conversion Engineering Conference, August 12-17, 1990, USA
- Computer Viruses: Detection & Prevention Techniques. IEEE SOUTHEASTCON90 Conference, April 1990, USA
- Introducing REXX into the Engineering Curriculum. IEEE SOUTHEASTCON90 Conference, April 1990, USA
- Multilingual Multimedia Visualization of Hydrocarbon Reservoir Simulation. 6th International Conf on Multilingual Computing, April 11-13, 1998, UK
- Setting Up a Web Server for Interactive Engineering Applications. WebNet World Conference, Oct. 31, 1997, Canada
- IMPES Numerical Formulation for Triphasic Fluid Flow Simulation, Mathematical and Computer Modeling Journal, Elsevier Science Ltd. Publishing, UK
- Setting a Web Server for Interactive Engineering Applications. Computer Networking and Distributed Databases Symposium, November 20-21, 1996, KSA
- 3-D Finite Element IMPES Formulation for Oil Reservoir Simulation, 5th International Conference and Exhibition on Multi-lingual Computing, April 11-13, 1996, UK
- Triphasic Fluid Flow Simulation: IMPES vs. Fully-Implicit 3D FEM. Parallel CFD 96' Conference, May 20-23, 1996, Italy
- New Supercomputer Curriculum and Related Results, 5th International Conference and Exhibition on Multi-lingual Computing, April 11-13, 1996, UK
- Internet Services, Computer Times Magazine, Saudi Computer Society, Fall 1995, KSA
- Videoconferencing Over the Internet for Fun and Education. Multimedia: Tools, Applications, and Trends Conference, December 8, 1995 KSA
- Reservoir Simulation Using Finite Element Methods and Multimedia. Bahrain International Conference on Computers in Education and Industry, November 1995, Bahrain
- Making Money on the Internet. Bahrain International Conference on Computers in Education and Industry, November 1995
- Notes on adaptive Mesh Generation Using 3-D Three Phase Finite Elements. ASEE Gulf South Conference, March 28-30, 1995, USA
- Telecommunications in K-12 Curriculum. ASEE Gulf South Conference, March 28-30, 1995, KSA
- Quick Guide to Engineering Computing Services and the Internet, 2nd Edition, Southern University, Fall 1994

Recent Recommendations

(original copy is in my LinkedIn profile <http://www.linkedin.com/in/yaghi>)

Jack Benton

Owner, 4TH QUARTER, INC.

Dr. Yaghi is working on the frontier of Blockchain Technology. I know him to have a great passion and knowledge about both the possibilities and disruptive characteristics of this next new phase of advanced, 21st century technology. His long term background is imbedded in the electronic payments world, which pioneered many of the encryption technologies, for example, RSA, which are the historical foundation of what makes the Blockchain work.

Maqsood Ahmed

Technical Sales Consultant, Ateon

Dr. Husam is a visionary in realizing potential of Blockchain and making tireless efforts in establishing ATEON as a pioneer in the Digital Transformation space in Saudi Arabia. He is passionate, hardworking, sincere, diligent, and a great manager who works with highest levels of integrity and is the biggest asset a company can have. He is a very well respected CIO and is one of the most talented individual in my knowledge. I wish him even greater success in future. Thank you for providing continuous support and guidance.

Al Marcella, Ph.D., CISA, CFSA, CDP

Principal/CEO, Business Automation Consultants, LLC

(Dr. Alber Marcella is a distinguished author and lecturer in Forensics security and IT audit)

“It is with great pleasure that I can wholeheartedly and with great confidence and satisfaction recommend to you my long time friend Dr. Husam M. Yaghi. Dr. Yaghi has served with distinction in leadership roles throughout his career. Dr. Yaghi has demonstrated both the technical expertise as well and the business prowess, making him a much sought after business executive. Throughout Dr. Yaghi’s distinguished career, he has served his profession with honor, leadership, and strong guidance and is selfless in giving of his time to assist others. Dr. Yaghi’s grasp of both the technical complexities of the IT profession as well as the subtleties required to manage technical professionals, lead successful projects, and interact with senior management are testaments to his enduring business acumen. As a leader and decision maker, I can confidently state that Dr. Yaghi will be a formidable addition and asset to any progressive, forward thinking, and global enterprise.”
January 28, 2009

Zuhair Maghrabi

Formerly Group HR Director, Alhamrani Group

“Throughout my career in HR, I came across very few IT professionals who have true business sense, and have the ability to look at IT from a business prospective, Husam definitely was one of those professionals. He has very strong capabilities in handling change resistance, as well as illustrating the added values of IT initiatives. Further and above to his very sound technical knowledge, he is very assertive, hands on as well strategic professional, and most important he sees things to the end. I have truly enjoyed working with him, and wish him all the best in his career.”
November 6, 2007

Waleed T. Al Alami

Formerly Executive Assistant to Group COO, Alhamrani Group

“Dr. Husam is a learned scholar, who is also a seasoned professional with a vast experience, he works in a quite but most effective way- it was always my pleasure to see his great presentations, work with him on projects as he had defined goals, always planned well, executed with quality and on time. I know that any corporation which he works with must be of high professional standings, with good HR to attract him and simply lucky.” January 25, 2009

Orhan Karadogan

Formerly Vice President, Alhamrani Universal.co.

“I have known Husam for just a couple of years. In deed he is a treasure to have as a friend,a colleague,and a business partner. Husam is a well rounded think tank who is easy going and always eager to help, yet a thought visionary leader, a strategic CIO,and a good motivator to staff. Husam's commitment to excellence and pursuit of innovation and positive change is best in class. His multicultural experience and educational attainment has helped him leave distinguished footprints everywhere he has worked” July 5, 2012

Ibrahim Al Asseri

Formerly Director of Business Operations, Hughes Aircraft Company

“Dr. Husam has been always one of the business innovative leaders. He keeps enhancing business operations through valuable data analysis and constructive recommendations. He leads teams to overcome challenges and bringing results beyond expectations. He works long hours and under stress with wisdom and team spirit. His technical background and abilities always raise clients confidence level of the organizations he represents.” May 2, 2011

Tariq Abdat

COO, AUC

“Dr. Husam is a real IT professional with a business mind who contributes to the growth of any organization he works for. He is dedicated , hard-working and a loyal officer. I highly recommend him as a CIO for those organizations looking for senior experienced executives.” January 27, 2009

Issam Qasem

Formerly Assistant Professor / Acting Chairman, Southern A&M University

“It gives me great satisfaction and distinct gratification to recommend my esteemed long time friend Husam M. Yaghi. In my capacity as Assistant Professor and Acting Chairman of Electronics Engineering Department, I have worked closely with Dr. Yaghi for five years while he served as an Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering and Director of the Engineering Computing Center. Dr. Yaghi is one of the most professional people I ever worked with; he is very intellectual, well organized, and exceptionally capable. I view Dr. Yaghi as a scholar with abundant capabilities and as a great innovator in both business and technology. I really do think the world of Dr. Yaghi and respect him and his capabilities significantly. Dr. Yaghi is a trustworthy gentleman with strong conviction and I would without any reservation recommend him. He would be a tremendous asset in any organization.”
January 27, 2009

Jamal Zayed

General Manager, IT Infrastructure, Alhamrani Group Of Companies

“Dr. Husam is one of the most outstanding IT Managers I've ever met. I have known him for over 10 years. He's a strategist and a leader. Husam who is a talented team player, is a great asset to a team of executives at any high profile Group in the region. No doubt, he uses his rich technical skills coupled with business knowledge to make significant contributions which always distinguishes him.” May 9, 2009

Mohammed Abuznaid PMP, ITIL, MCSE, CCNA, CCEA
Formerly Systems Manager, Alhamrani Group of Companies

“I had the pleasure to be a member of Dr. Husam team at Alhamrani Group. Dr. Husam owns high management and technical leadership skills, talented by nature, multicultural, and well organized. It is my honor to recommend you Dr. Husam, Wish you the best at Alhamrani Group or wherever you go.” August 15, 2011

Abdul Kareem Shaik

Formerly Art Director, Microns Multimedia International

“A guru in I.T or should I say the most literate personality that I have come across with such in debt knowledge about technology. I remember our discussions related to I.T and media that lasted hours my amusement to his extensive knowledge and expertise. I think I was fortunate enough to work for him on few project in the past. A true inspirational personality to follow...” October 30, 2008

Mohammad Al-Kharashi

Senior Advisor, Saudi Telecom
Formerly, Director, General Directorate of Information Technology, Saudi Arabian National Guard

“I knew Dr. Husam Yaghi as a hardworking dedicated person. He is always sharp and does things in a timely manner, regardless of the time needed to finish the work. He is fun to be around, he will extend an arm and a leg to help his colleague and

work even outside working hours. Dr. Husam is an asset for any one working with him." May 11, 2009

Khalid Mansour

*GM - Commercial Division at Basamh
Formerly, VP Operations, EzAISahra Holding Group*

"Husam is a true professional with a larger-than-life aptitude for results. He is focused, self-driven and possesses many core competencies which the industry is hungry for indeed." June 6, 2009

Kokab Mirza

Chief Operating Officer, Ez Alsahra Holding Company

"Husam was one of the pioneers in the start-up activities of the telecommunications line at Ez AISahra Group. Any new venture is a painstaking task. Telecom sector being more so, because of rapidly changing and intensely competitive environment. This required highest level of technical competencies, knowledge of customers, service providers, suppliers and market at large. Above all, it required unwavering commitment, mental toughness, analytical skills and ability to work long and smart. These are the very qualities that Husam brought to bear on this business venture." June 11, 2009

Feda Khallad

*Sales Director for Middle East – iDirect Technologies
Formerly, Accounts Manager, Marconi Middle East*

"I have worked with Dr. Yaghi over a period of two years during which we had developed several new business opportunities. During the span of the two year period, Dr. Yaghi had displayed a world class level of professionalism and capability in managing new opportunities from their early delicate infancy stage to later stages that needed robustness and persistence materialized. His well-rounded technical knowledge coupled with good business acumen made a difference in our partnership. Though on a personal note, I always had enjoyed working with Husam and I would not hesitate to work with him again and again when opportunities arise. He is honest at work and honest with friends, a quality I admire." May 9, 2011

Chris Findlay

CFO, Alhmrani Company for Investment in Trade,

"Husam is a highly knowledgeable IT professional with a great ability to understand business requirements and to provide appropriate IT solutions. He is a measured and patient person who deals comfortably and capably with non-technical, operational and business issues. It is always a pleasure to work with him." May 16, 2011

Recommendations found on Byte.com:

Hasan Hassanein

Advisor & Assistant to CEO, Alhamrani Group of Companies

“As an advisor and assistant to the President and CEO, Husam and I worked together on several joint assignments and strategic plans for the Group and its companies which included financial and business matters. I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr Husam M. Yaghi over the last four years. Dr. Husam is a leader in his work; in his education, and in his research credentials. He leads and his enthusiasm and dedication both inspiring and motivating. He worked hard to build authentic relationships with his high caliber staff. His efforts have created a great working environment and a productive team. I believe Dr Husam exhibits many of the qualities that are essential to high educational institutes, high quality companies, universities and research centers. I highly recommend him.” August 2, 2012

Waleed T. Al Alami

*Deputy Chairman & Group Development at at Al Sayegh Group
Formerly, Assistant to COO, Alhamrani Group*

“Dr. Husam and I worked together at Alhamrani Group HQ in Jeddah, for 4 years whereby he had shown himself to be dedicated, proactive, quite the professional in his expertise apart from being a trustworthy, honest, likable person with a lovely personality to boot. A couple of highlighted achievements we worked on at the time that stands in my mind and can be mainly contributed to Dr. Husam are the linking of different Group ERP’s through a package to introduce a custom made Dashboard to the BOD. The other is introducing to Disaster Recovery concept for the Group amongst many others.... It would be a real pleasure to work with Dr. Husam anywhere anytime and whichever organization has the good fortune of him landing with will reap tangible benefits within a short time line. I highly recommend any association with Dr. Husam.”, July 28, 2012