

[Americas Issue: April 2006](#)

## Andy Ogielski

President, Chief Scientist, Renesys™

by Ted McKenna  
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After spending nearly half his life around New York City, Andy Ogielski, president and chief scientist of the Internet monitoring company Renesys, says living in the country is quite a change, but in a good way.



**Andy Ogielski**

**Title:** President, Chief Scientist, Renesys

**Age:** 58

**Resides:** Hanover, N.H.

**Length at Current Position:** 6 1/2 Years

**Education:** Ph.D. in Theoretical Physics, University of Poland

His current hometown, Hanover, N.H., is a mix of the rural and the worldly. It's not too far from Renesys' offices in Manchester and offers plenty of cultural entertainment, decent grocery stores, and the occasional moose crossing Ogielski's garden.

"Moose are remarkable creatures; they don't pay attention to people at all," he says. "I could be chopping wood and the moose will come out of the woods and just walk at me. And they are big."

Originally from Poland, Ogielski came to the United States in the late 1970s. He worked at Bell Labs for many years, mingling with sharp minds engaged in a range of theoretical work, from neurobiology to supercomputers.

Ogielski says this exposure to different scientific disciplines — including volunteer work at the Wood's Hole marine labs on Cape Cod — was invaluable in getting him to think about computer networks in new and unconventional ways, and ultimately to co-found Renesys with fellow scientist Jim Cowie.

"I love experiencing a multitude of perspectives on something," he says. "You start thinking about parallels between different complex systems."

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### Is the Internet like a biological organism?

It has similar characteristics. It's like a reflection of relationships among corporations. Think of it as an elephant and mice. You have a few large service providers and smaller entities that connect with them.

## What's the good of knowing what happens on the Internet?

Imagine that we maintain a real-time Internet map and store all the changes in a database. Now we can reconstruct exactly the routes between any two networks in the Internet five minutes ago, five days ago, or all the way back to January 2002. If something happens, some networks drop out, we see it immediately. Given that we have the history to see the trends, we can see which markets grow, which shrink, and provide rankings based on various metrics.

## Were you the kid with a chemistry set?

Oh, yes. My uncle was a chemist. I was a precocious kid. I learned to read early and got my first chemistry set at 7 or 8 and had a great time with it.

## Did you avoid setting the house on fire?

Yes, I still have all my fingers. I think I was one of the few who survived this early fascination!

## What books do you enjoy reading?

I became captivated by "evo-devo," or the evolutionary development of biology, a field that appeared maybe 15 or 20 years ago.

## Could this affect people's everyday lives?

Yes, it's about how you translate and go from the binary information encoded in DNA to building an organism. It's about building very complex systems from discrete information.

## Could someone someday build something living out of machines? It sounds like Dr. Frankenstein.

Absolutely. But I think it will be much harder than what they write in the popular press! To paraphrase Niels Bohr, the physicist who created quantum mechanics, it's hard to make predictions, especially about the future.

To view the article on-line, go to: [http://www.telecommagazine.com/Americas/article.asp?HH\\_ID=AR\\_1895](http://www.telecommagazine.com/Americas/article.asp?HH_ID=AR_1895)



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## ABOUT RENESYS CORPORATION

Renesys offers the industry's first Internet monitoring and analysis solution that provides an unparalleled level of Internet intelligence for competitive advantage. The company gives service providers, government agencies and global 2000 organizations a real-time view into the global Internet as it affects their business. Only with Renesys can customers have a new level of speed and agility in managing the Internet climate outside the four walls of the organization, resulting in minimal downtime between customers, partners and other stakeholders. Renesys was founded in 2000 and is based in Manchester, NH.

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