Tony Robinson

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2006-current: Speechmatics – Founder
Speechmatics (the trading name of Cantab Research Limited) provides the higest accuracy speech to text both as a service and on premises.   The accuracy is achieved through extensive research into deep learning/recurrent neural networks for acoustic and language models. Speechmatics has been growing fast since 2014 with three rounds of funding and about 60 people.

- 2018- Advisor to many start-up companies
- 2014-18 Cofounder NowTranscribe. Significantly reducing manual transcription costs.
- 2012-13 Cofounder Capito Systems. Automating the voice enabling of smartphone apps.
- 2011-12 Cofounder of Cambridge Financial Engineering.   Successfully developed nonlinear/neural network techniques for financial portfolio optimisation.
- 2008-10 Director of the Advanced Speech Group at SpinVox. Responsible for transforming the company from manual transcription to predominantly speech recognition.
- 2006-07 CTO Zentian. Hardware based speech recognition improving speed/cost.
- 2006- Founder Cantab Research aka Speechmatics. Worldbeating deployable ASR.

1995-06: SoftSound Limited - Founder and Managing Director
SoftSound is best known for providing all the speech processing behind the Autonomy (now HP) product suites.   In the early 2000's SoftSound was the world leader in speech recognition for information retrieval, covering more languages and operating faster and more efficiently than any other speech engine in this market.
- 2004 Developed the first version of the Blinkx video search
- 2000 Autonomy funded SoftSound's growth into organising unstructured information
- 2000 Created the first automatic subtitle generation system for the BBC.
- 1997-00 Ran the EU funded THISL project which created the first audio indexing and retrieval system based on large vocabulary speech recognition.
- 1995-97 Developed low bit rate audio coders for music distribution over the internet.

1989-00: Cambridge University – Founder of the Connectionist Speech Recognition Group
Formed and led the Connectionist Speech Recognition Group of Cambridge University developing the first wave of neural network ASR. Participated in the DAPRA evaluations through the progression from small vocabulary read speech to large vocabulary continuous speech recognition of naturally found speech.   Responsible for long-standing best phoneme error rates using RNNs. Supervised 11 PhD students and numerous MPhil/ugrads. Approximately 100 publications.
- 1995-00: Lecturer, Department of Engineering
- 1991-95: SERC Advanced Research Fellowship
- 1989-91: Research Assistant

1981-89: Cambridge University - Formal education machine learning/neural networks
Understanding complex systems through computer simulations.   Developed from applying simple BBC micro hardware to estimating sand velocity in a windtunnel to the first consumer modems and on to signal processing, speech recognition, machine learning and neural networks.
- 1986-89: PhD in Recurrent Neural Networks
- 1985-86: MPhil Computer Speech and Language Processing
- 1984-85: GEC Hirst Research Centre, Adaptive Systems Group
- 1981-84: BA Natural Sciences (Physics)

Other:
Contributed to the early software of the BBC micro and the ZX88.
Author of shorten, the first lossless audio compressor.
Run 12 marathons with ambition to run many more.
For hobbies and interests see http://tonyRobinson.com.