Steve Schlabs has experienced significant change throughout his career—transitioning from military to civilian life, switching from finance to tech, working as a vice president of a software company to entering the unknown as a startup co-founder. But for Schlabs, “it’s all part of the journey.”

Originally from Wichita Falls, Texas, Schlabs attended Midwestern State University with an ROTC scholarship and served four years as an officer in the U.S. Army. He deployed as a platoon leader in Desert Shield/Desert Storm, was awarded the Bronze Star and graduated from Airborne and Ranger School.

“My military experience was amazing in that I met fantastic leaders, like my first battalion commander, Lt. Col. Walt M. Craig, Jr., who are still in my life today,” he said. “After graduating from Ranger School in 1989, I really felt like I was coming of age.”

Schlabs then returned to life as a student and earned an MBA at Baylor. He was accepted into EDS’ Accounting and Financial Development Program, where he completed an international rotation in Sydney, Australia, as a team member working on the $2.9 billion Commonwealth Bank outsourcing deal, and a corporate rotation through the CFO’s office. In 1997, Schlabs’ field rotation at EDS served as a defining moment when a co-worker recognized his talent for technology. Schlabs relocated to San Francisco and later joined Vignette, a tech start-up.

“I took a chance by leaving EDS for an Internet start-up in 1998,” he said. “I did three years of professional services for Vignette, and then experienced a layoff during the dot com bubble. It was another defining moment that helped shape me into the guy I am today. I never want to be on either side of boxes again.”

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