

Tech Bio – Fred Thomas

Fred Thomas works for [Iomega Corporation](#) in the capacity of Chief Technologist in the Advanced R&D Group. Mr. Thomas' technical interest is the fusion of new technologies for the enhancement or creation of optical and magnetic removable data storage devices. He has a BSME with a minor in Physics and a MS in Mechanical Engineering from [Bucknell University](#).

Mr. Thomas holds 33 US patents, a dozen or so international patents and has over 25 US patents pending. He is Iomega Corporation's all-time leading inventor. His inventions can be found throughout Iomega's data storage products, both past and present, including the Floptical Drive, Zip Drive, Jaz Drive, Peerless Drive and REV Drive. He is one of the primary inventors of Iomega's micro magnetic disk/drive technology, whose most recent incarnation has been announced to the marketplace as the 1.5 GB "[Digital Capture Technology](#)." Mr. Thomas is responsible for Iomega's electro-optically based cartridge identification and authentications systems, which are the focus of the "[Research Feature](#)" article in the August 2003 edition of *IEEE Computer Magazine*. The concept of massively multi-level [subwavelength optical data storage](#) is originally Mr. Thomas'. He presented peer-reviewed technical papers on this topic at both the 2002 and 2003 OSA ODS Topical Meeting on Optical Data Storage. Iomega has patents issued and pending on key aspects of this concept.

Mr. Thomas is one of only two engineers to be awarded Iomega's "Exceptional Invention Award" during the company's 25 years in business. His "Floptical laser servo writer" design won the 1994 *Laser Focus World Magazine* "[Electro-Optic Application of the Year Award](#)." Most recently the Lemelson-MIT Program has also honored him with selection as their "[Inventor of the Week](#)" during the month of November 2004.

Prior to his 13-year career at Iomega Mr. Thomas worked for Texas Instruments, Inc. for five years as an Electro-Optic Systems Engineer and then ran his own electro-optic based instrument development business for three years.