Computer scientists at University of Wollongong have contributed significantly to computer science education, research and applications. There are countless achievements that have contributed to today’s advances of computing. As a significant achievement of Computer Science at UOW in 1970’s, Ross Nealon, Richard Miller and Juris Reinfelds performed the first port of the UNIX operating system outside BELL Labs. Professor John Fulcher recalled:

Although it is perhaps difficult to imagine in this day and age (given the Open Source Linux project, for example), there was a time when the porting of Operating Systems from one hardware platform to another was viewed as a radical undertaking. Back in the late 1970’s, the University of Wollongong established an international reputation for the porting of the (DEC PDP-11) AT&T Unix OS to a Perkin Elmer platform. Subsequently, a company was set up in California to commercialize these efforts (in fact despite the company's re-focus into networking, a lot of people in the USA know the name "Wollongong" not from the University, but rather from the Wollongong Group, Inc.)

The original Wollongong Unix port was only the second successful one in the world (the first being undertaken within AT&T Bell Laboratories, and on another DEC minicomputer). The Chief Architect (eg. OS kernel) of the 1977 Wollongong Unix port was Richard Miller, Project Officer in the Department of Computing Science from 1976 to 1982. Richard was ably assisted (e.g. line editor) by the Department's first Honours Student – Ross Nealon

For further information about the first port of Unix, please read more.