

Welcome to the United States, unless you're a Canadian technologist who is an invited guest at a Microsoft conference, in which case, keep out

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Vancouver technologist Darren Barefoot was invited to Redmond by the MSN Search team but was stopped by Immigration and denied entry.

Ultimately, the customs agents concluded that because Microsoft was covering my flight and accommodation, I was being compensated for consulting activities. In order to enter the country, I'd need a work permit.

He says Customs, but I'm pretty sure it was really Immigration that stopped him.

Sorry, Darren. We miss you already. We even asked the rain to take a few days off and invited the sun out to play just for you.

Raymond Chen

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