

STEPHEN T. SATCHELL

Reno, NV USA; +1 (775) 853-2040
jobs@satchell.net

RECENTLY PUBLISHED MATERIAL:

<https://www.satchell.net/tech-writing-samples/>

LOOKING FOR

Fully remote position in technical writing, technical illustration, photo editing, typography. More than 25 years experience working remotely.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Technical writing and editing:

- More than 25 years writing functional and design specifications, requirements, APIs, library and language documentation, QA reports, bug reports, project management. Document style guides, multi-target documents.
- More than 25 years writing magazine articles, including award-winning product reviews, for *Byte*, *InfoWorld*, and other national computer magazines. Web articles.
- More than 20 years writing user manuals, FAQs, white papers, book chapters, writing and editing EIA/TIA and ITU Standards documents. IETF RFC (Request for Comment).
- *Linux IP Stacks Commentary* (CoriolisOpen Press, 2000).
- Microsoft Office, LibreOffice, Google Docs, Confluence, nroff, troff, HTML/CSS/XML.

Graphic Arts and Technical Illustration:

- More than 25 years creating and editing technical diagrams; picture editing; typesetting; page design, layout, and imposition; presentations; font usage.
- Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) including exporting as HTML SVG tags.
- Screen capture, video capture, photography, drafting, equations.
- Visio, Adobe Illustrator, Dia, PageMaker, Quark, PostScript, Gimp, Inkscape, Markdown.

Networking: Every aspect of TCP/IP networking: protocol design and implementation; administration; application development; LAN/WAN design; documentation.

Coding:

- Principal languages are Python, Perl, C, PASCAL, assembler (on a wide variety of CPUs). sh, bash, TCL Application-specific languages. Embedded systems programming.
- Compilers and run time engines, lex/yacc, flex/bison.
- Git, Github. Jira, vim.

Real-time (RT) programming: Including RT programs in non-RT environments.

RECENT EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 2022-present: Sole Proprietor, Technical Writer/Editor/Illustrator, Reno, Nevada
- 2007-2022: Development programmer, Internetwork Expert (INE), Inc. and INE LLC, Reno NV, Bellevue WA, Cary NC
- 2003-2007: System administrator, American Internet Communications Inc., Reno, Nevada

CERTIFICATIONS, EDUCATION, AND MEMBERSHIPS

- Certificate in Paralegal Studies, University of Nevada, Reno.
- Former member, Association for Computing Machinery (ACM).
- Former member, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

I'm More Than a "High School Graduate"

S. Satchell's Computer Science (CS) Career Journey

Please list your education history: On every single employment application I have had to fill out through my career, the one section that *always* gives me pause is the Education block. There is absolute no way for me to describe my journey to learn my craft within that matrix of little tiny boxes.

For I was – and am – very much outside the box. I didn't attend college classes in the beginning, because those classes weren't accessible to a high school student. My high school, when I was there, didn't give its students any access to computers. Instead, I spent a lot of time on the campus of Southern Illinois University (SIU), its computer and tabulation machine areas, and the main library during my mid-teens. My education in computer science was of the "log with teacher at one end and student at the other" variety. Lots of teachers, in fact: all tough as nails.

I have some college education. In computer science, though, I mostly took proficiency tests for credit. (In the 200-level class, I set the grading curve.)

This "learn by doing" continued throughout my career. Thinking outside the box was standing operating procedure as I went from place to place, learning new things and new skills all the time. So let's look at some of what this "high school graduate" did:

- University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Center for Advanced Computation (CAC): ARPAnet Network Graphics Protocol implementation and proof of concept. Significant cost reductions for CAC staff projects at contract computer centers.
- Rockwell International, Downers Grove IL: Newspaper composition product development. Real-time programming. Operating system device drivers. Quick-turnaround product development. Tool-maker.
- Recognition Equipment, Inc., Elk Grove Village IL: Online Fine Sort (check processing, bulk filing). Computer reverse engineering, functional specification development. Telecommunications. Distributed computing design. Virtual memory extensions. Field analysis.
- InfoWorld Magazine, Menlo Park CA: Product reviews. News articles. Director of hardware testing in InfoWorld Labs.
- Telephony consultant
- AM Hosting, Reno NV: system/network admin, system builder, tool-maker, abuse desk.
- INE LLC, Reno NV: automation architect and programmer, customer manuals, facilities, system builder, system administrator, cloud administrator.
- Accepted as a full member of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE).

I'm not alone. Other well-known people didn't complete their degrees, and proved to be wildly successful and productive. Indeed, in my first full-time job, the management said

"because you don't have a degree, you have far less to un-learn to be useful here."

There's more: this white paper looks only at my CS growth path. There were parallel paths for non-fiction writing, typography/graphic arts, and sound engineering.