

STEPHEN T. SATCHELL

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RECENTLY PUBLISHED MATERIAL:

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

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Technical writing and editing:

- More than 25 years writing functional and design specs, requirements, API, library, and language documentation, QA reports, bug reports, project management.
- 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:

- Picture editing, page design, presentations, font usage.
- Screen 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, Reno, Nevada
- 2007-2022: Development programmer, Internetwork Expert (INE), Inc. and INE LLC
- 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 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 administrator, 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.

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