
The TCP/IP Guide

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Dedication

This Guide is dedicated to my family: my wife Robyn and my three sons, Ryan, Matthew and Evan.

I suppose that it's a cliché to dedicate a book to your wife. If so, it's for a very good reason: who plays a more important role in the life of an author than his or her spouse? Robyn is my partner; the person who is always there; the one who shares my life in so many ways. The expression about a great woman being behind every good man is true, yet my wife is deserving of recognition for reasons that go far beyond the usual reasons such as being "supportive".

Financially, she agreed to take on a regular working position to make it possible for me to spend time on a very long project with an uncertain payoff. She took on most of the tasks of taking our children to school and dealing with their needs, to give me time to write. She also gracefully agreed to "do without" many things that many other wives would not have been too happy about.

But most of all, she deserves a world of credit for putting up with *me*. ☺ For constantly reassuring me that it was okay that I was spending years on a project that might not be successful. For listening to me talk for countless hours, and for giving her opinions on many portions of my writing, all on a subject that really doesn't interest her at all. And most importantly, for encouraging me when I felt this was a waste of time, and even kicking me in the butt when I felt like giving up. Without Robyn, this Guide simply would not exist. Thanks, R.

My three boys deserve credit for similar reasons, but to a lesser extent. They have had to put up with my constantly sitting at the computer trying to tune them out so I could concentrate; my too-frequent grouchy moods; and my reluctance to spend time with them when I had work on my plate. I am sure there were many times that they wished I just had a regular "day job".

Ryan, my big boy, has been very patient in waiting for me to finish this project so we can resume several activities that we used to engage in regularly. Matthew, my fun-loving and rambunctious middle son, has also had to deal with my not having as much time as I would have liked to spend time with him. And little Evan has had a father working on a long-term project for his entire life! All three of my boys have been very understanding, and provided me with much needed joy and laughter at times when I needed it most.

Acknowledgments

I dedicated this Guide to my wife and children to reflect the important role they have played in life in general terms, and in accomplishing this Guide in particular. However, there are many others who also contributed to the completion of this document, and I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge them.

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I've probably missed a few people who should be on this list; I hope all who are deserving of my appreciation will forgive their omission and accept my thanks.

About The Author

I was born in 1966 in Windsor, Ontario, Canada and raised in nearby Toronto. I married my wife Robyn in 1990; we now live in southern Vermont with our three sons: Ryan (now 12), Matthew (9) and Evan (4).

I have had an interest in the field of computers ever since my early years, starting at the age of 14 when I received my first computer, an Apple II that was a gift from my parents. Since that time I have worked in various computer-related fields in hardware and software. In 1989 I obtained a Bachelor of Applied Science from the University of Waterloo, in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. I completed my formal education in 1993 with two Master's degrees, in Management and in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS), from MIT.

After a brief “conventional” technical career, I created and published The PC Guide, an extensive online reference work on personal computers and in 1998 I decided to devote myself to my writing projects full time. The TCP/IP Guide was part of a larger networking project that I spent time on earlier this decade. I continue to work in the technical writing and editing field on various projects, for myself and other companies.

You may have noticed something missing here: no impressive listings of credentials. No, I'm not a New York Times best-selling author; I haven't been a professor at a prestigious Ivy League university for a quarter-century; neither am I a top executive at a Silicon Valley giant. In some ways, I am a student of technology, just like you are. And my experience over the years has shown me that many of the people who know the most about how technology works also have rather limited success in explaining what they know in a way that will allow me to understand it. My interests, and I believe my skills, lie not in being an expert, but an *educator*, in presenting complex information in a form that is sensible, digestible and fun to read.

When I am not working—all too rare these days—I spend time with my family and enjoy the peaceful quiet and natural beauty of the state of Vermont. I enjoy listening to many types of music, walking in the woods, hiking, and playing tennis. I am also an avid amateur photographer, with particular interests in nature and landscapes.

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