

I am in my 4th decade as a knowledge worker solving interesting problems using appropriate technologies and an eye for efficient and practical solutions. I have worked in such diverse areas as image-processing and robotics, software development, corporate systems management, small business consulting, technical marketing, engineering, and education. My primary interest is the application of reasoned analysis and appropriate technologies to the practical solution of interesting problems.

Business Interests

I am always looking to broaden my experience, particularly with larger computing endeavours and the application of my multi-disciplinary skills to a wider set of problems. My long-term goal is involvement with technology research and development, as an active participant, adept facilitator, and realistic promoter. I am also interested in bringing technology to people in ways that let them see (through) the "magic."

I currently work with [AVRA Software Lab](#) in a unique agile development situation, and have the freedom of mind and time to work on other projects that are interesting and profitable for all.

Personal Interests

My personal interests generally revolve around my desire to know why things are the way they are, and perhaps how to do something interesting or useful with that knowledge. Science and Technology always provides a limitless source of inspiration for new ideas and understanding of old ones. Psychology and Medicine demonstrate that not all "computing" systems need wires and electricity. Meteorology, Horticulture and [Auto Restoration](#) encourage patience and an appreciation that not everything influential is always seen immediately.

People Skills

From the start of my career I have known that computers are only a tool for the expression of *human* endeavours. Early experience educating users in mainframe-based computing helped me develop ways to describe the workings of such ephemeral entities as computers and software to a non-technical audience. Later experience teaching with PCs and networks delivering formal certification concepts and practices was an enjoyable way to deliver knowledge and insight and deepen my understanding of the concepts and applications of the material presented.

Business Skills

While gaining a formal science education in Psychology, I administered several research laboratories at the University of Alberta, designing and developing methodologies, managing equipment, resources, staff, subjects, and the publication process. The same ability to organize diverse resources for constructive forward motion provided me with a solid foundation for application during a tenure as systems manager for a group of engineering firms. This venture involved me in the computing of business: A/R, A/P, budgeting, financial forecasting, and project management, as well as the business of computing: system design and specification, cost/benefit analysis, and application delivery.

Technology Skills

My long-standing interest in the science of technology and the technology of science provides an easily-accessible conduit to future developments, allowing me to be intelligently conversant in the nuts-and-bolts of a technology and keep a steady and informed focus on the changes taking place in our world without being lead by the fashion(s) of the moment. Having worked with nearly a dozen different types of computers (and on hundreds of them), an equal number of operating systems, and hundreds of pieces of software, I can easily adapt to any computing environment.

Communication Skills

I am fortunate to be well-grounded in the old-fashioned methods of language learning: grammar, vocabulary, and composition as a foundation for intelligent expression. Upon that basis I have built a solid record of clear, concise communication enhanced by available machine-based publication tools. Working in voice, print, video, digital, and Internet media, I have attained fluency in the arts and techniques of presenting ideas. I have been

- on radio two years for [CJSR](#),
- on television for ACCESS/CLT's HelpTV program,
- in print for [The Edmonton Journal](#) among others, and
- on the Internet with my own website since early 1997.

Since 1989: BRIDGE Scientific Services

In 1989 I started BRIDGE Scientific Services to apply my research and design skills to the application of technology to solve a wider array of business problems. Quite often during my education I found myself being asked for answers or help about a broad array of issues, being responsible for the support of several different research labs, and being a naturally curious fellow. At the same time I was involved with technology transfer work involving the University of Alberta and the Provincial Government, and found myself traversing several bridges between the two, both physically and metaphorically. Thus BRIDGE seemed an obvious choice, combined with Scientific Services because I believe the best business solutions arise from applying methods that derive from the rigors of scientific research tempered for use within such a fluid domain as people. After a tenure as "Systems Manager" in the corporate environment, managing a large number of diverse users and applications, I decided to move on to newer adventures with BRIDGE. The following is a walk back in time through projects now on the go and in my past.

Since 1999

[Avra Software Lab Inc.](#)

I work with Avra on the development of [iPRSM®](#), a web-based application used by [Curtiss-Wright Flow Control Company](#) for auditing and managing pressure safety valves for the petroleum industry. I am primarily responsible for iPRSM®'s reporting functions, managing the server infrastructure that delivers iPRSM®, and design of spreadsheet data exports for custom analysis. I also operate the [SizeMaster MkIV Help Desk](#), providing user support for this engineering worksheet product.

2012

[D. W. Good Investments.](#)

Implementation of [WinFund](#), a WebSphere-based client for the [FundSERV](#) real-time investment funds trading system hosted on Windows 2008 Server.

2008-2009

[Love Success Network](#)

In a foray into Internet Marketing, I worked with [Sherrie Rose](#) on several of her early personal-relationships web projects. In addition to creating and managing her portfolio of 400+ domains, I developed a database-driven push methodology to populate and maintain the portfolio's currency, search optimization, and revenue-generating features.

2001-2008

[Total Integration Inc.](#)

BRIDGE provided outsourced technical support for this 10+ station network, first running Windows NT4, and then Windows 2003 SBS. BRIDGE also created their website.

2002

[Alberta Venture Magazine](#)

BRIDGE designed and hosted a web application for the (inaugural) Alberta Venture 2002 Executive Salary Survey.

1998 - 2000

Great North (Communications, Productions and International)

Three separate divisions of this film and video production house, with only peer-to-peer interconnectivity, move into new quarters and a new phase in their computing life. BRIDGE implemented first an 80-user intranet using Novell Netware 4, and then an Internet gateway using RedHat Linux.

1996 - 2000

[Curtiss-Wright Flow Control Company - Farris Engineering \(Edmonton\)](#)

BRIDGE took this branch-office sales and service shop, a Novell Netware 4.1 WAN node, through a five-stage retrofit: Reconnaissance, Forensics, Normalization, Education and Extension followed by integration with [Baan ERP](#).

1996

University of Alberta Software Engineering Research Group

Part of the Software Engineering Application Framework (SEAF) project for the Software Engineering Research Group at the University of Alberta, working on TRAP-funded development of SizeMaster, an engineering software tool for Pressure Safety Valve Engineering, for Teledyne Fluid Systems. I was responsible for authoring Help, developing Reports, network Testing, and production Packaging.

[Dominion Messenger](#)

Project Manager for IRAP-funded development of DAD: Dominion Automated Dispatcher, OO-based courier-management software for stand-alone or networked Windows client environments. I coordinated the development effort, designed and developed parts of DAD, and authored its Help.

[PCL Constructors Ltd.](#)

As part of a 1500-station OS/2 roll-out the headquarters of this worldwide construction company needed to provide dynamic workstation configuration. BRIDGE modified a dynamic IP utility and attached it to a customized startup script to configure network, host and system management facilities at boot-time.

BRIDGE Scientific Services - Continued

1995

[IBM Canada](#) Education and Training, PBSC Computer Training Centres

I was contracted to teach introductory and advanced (certification-level) OS/2 Warp and OS/2 LAN Server courses in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

[IBM Canada](#), Western Marketing Division

I performed a one-year contract as an OS/2 Marketing Specialist, covering Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. My mission was to educate retailers, VARs, ISVs and interested audiences about IBM's OS/2-based products and demonstrate their marketability and utility in consumer and business markets.

[CKUA Radio](#) News and Public Affairs

Needing better integration to manage staff and budget cutbacks, CKUA Radio looked to OS/2 to run several office functions from the same hardware. At the same time an earlier Netware installation was found to be inadequate for their projected needs. BRIDGE created two systems running OS/2 Warp: a File Server running IBM LAN Server 4.0, and a Communications Server running a number of modem-based services for network and remote-site use.

[Gettel & Dezman](#) Appraisal Consultants

In a market of privatized information services, Gettel & Dezman realised that their repository of property appraisals was a potential source of revenue. BRIDGE designed a prototype subscription-based service providing text descriptions and scanned photographs for a wide range of property types.

[Alpha Laboratory](#) Services

As part of their ISO 9000 certification process, Alpha Labs needed to revamp their documentation and reporting procedures. BRIDGE created two parallel form sets, packaged as Microsoft Word templates, for client reporting and printed forms for use in the laboratory.

1994

[EmployAbilities](#)

EmployAbilities contacted BRIDGE to provide them with a network to link their computers together without hiring a LAN administrator or adding undue support responsibilities to their existing staff. BRIDGE designed and implemented EAnet, a Netware 3.12 installation that harnessed the power of OS/2 multi-tasking to create a machine-based administrator on-site and an easy access for BRIDGE overview support from remote. On the client side, a layer of DOS Batch, REXX, and login script intelligence provided a consistent, configurable and state-sensitive interface that scaled to meet the network's growth without expensive network utilities.

[IDACOM](#), (a division of [Hewlett-Packard](#))

Distribution of very popular seminar handbook (Broadband Testing & Technologies) became too demanding of graphics staff, so BRIDGE converted 200 pages of print-based multiple-source graphics to a set of slide files that could be distributed digitally to requesters who could then produce their own materials without delay. As a follow-up to this handbook, BRIDGE oversaw the production of B-ISDN/ATM Testing and Technologies Seminar 1994, combining multi-source graphics and text into edited publication-ready files.

[Labatt's Breweries](#), Human Resources

Corporate reengineering presented two competing problems for a comprehensive benefits plan: more staff were being relocated within the organization, and a comprehensive relocation subsidy program was facing the demise of its mainframe host. At the same time, the financial implications of the subsidy were being re-examined and adjusted, so the old model required new features along with conversion. BRIDGE built the Employee Relocation Subsidy Calculator as a formula-driven spreadsheet to capture the form and rationale of the decisions made into a familiar tool. This application was in use until at least 2006, when a small modification for a policy change was requested.

[The Sound Estate Ltd.](#)

A small land developer wanted to build a condominium development from bare land, and needed accurate cost and cashflow analyses throughout the life of the project. BRIDGE managed financial analyses and shepherded the developer through the paperwork involved in New Home Warranty and CMHC certification. BRIDGE also prepared financial projections and a business plan for a Bottle Depot licence application.

[Text, Graphics and Image Design](#)

As long as I have used computers I have been involved in the composition of words and pictures into documents, and have had a keen interest in the art and science of doing so. As a small business owner I also realize the value of a professional-looking image that is flexible and inexpensive. The following is a sample of clients that needed either a set of whole-image materials (letterhead, business cards, envelopes) or specific materials for specific purposes (packaging or promotion).

Provincial Pipeline Construction Ltd. Whole-image materials, including door decals.

Firelight Leisure Corporation Marketing and product packaging materials.

Canadian Cancer Society Public Notice materials design.

Grandstand Software Inc. Whole-image materials, promotion and product packaging, including software documentation.

Employment

1989-93

I performed corporate and client computer systems and consulting for six North American consulting engineering firms comprising the Commercial-Institutional (C-I) arm of the Stanley Technology Group (now [Stantec](#)):

- IMC Consulting Group Inc.
- Coordinate Surveys Ltd.
- Cheriton Engineering Inc.
- Envirocorp Interior Design Group Inc.
- IMC Consultants Ltd.
- Intertecnica Consulting Inc.

In addition to managing over 100 computers and their peripherals, I specified, developed and implemented software applications, delivered training and wrote documentation, designed graphics and text materials, prepared budgets and financial statements, and provided computer expertise for client projects. I was often sourced by various other members of the Stanley Group, locally and world-wide.

IMCBBS: In order to overcome the costs and inefficiencies of using courier services to exchange computer-generated information between offices, I introduced a simple BBS system into the Edmonton office, using a discarded XT computer, a 2400bps modem, and multi-tasked communications software. The system became very popular with IMC and Stanley Group staff, as it neatly avoided the \$40/overnight cost of transmitting floppy-disks by courier. A later machine upgrade added an e-mail system, the IMC corporate library, and a central library of on-demand documents. This system became so popular that a second one was commissioned by another Stanley company.

CCCAC: Every residential subdivision requires up to 50 inspection signatures for Construction Completion and Final Acceptance Certificates before actual home construction can begin. I implemented a MS-Access relational database system to track the approval process, flag milestones, and prepare status reports.

IMCLIB: A MS-Access relational database and Dewey-based indexing system that turned a random collection of nearly 2,000 books and reports into a corporate library, with an on-line catalogue.

DocTools: A package of MS-Word and MS-Excel templates used for all C-I Group documents, using on-screen forms, stylesheets, macros, and scanned logos. These tools updated an old paper-based style guide into a set of forms for easy document creation that could be used by clerical and professional staff, significantly reducing "typing" services and stationery costs.

JobTrak and TimeTrak: A MS-Access relational database to track project and labour costs and tabulate billing summaries in a manner not available from the corporate accounting software.

"Trends in Northern Alberta": For the Northern Alberta Development Council, a 2nd-decade update of a compilation of demographic and economic data. Data and analyses were merged from multiple sources into a 20-chapter book built with MS-Word, MS-Excel, and Lotus Freelance delivered as camera-ready copy.

DrawMan: AlPac Drawings Manager At the peak of final construction of the Athabasca pulp mill, a MS-Access database system used by Alberta Pacific Forest Industries for managing and coordinating the flow of 10,000+ engineering and construction drawings.

NORRIPdb: NORRIP-II Procurements System: A MS-Access database system used by Stanley West Africa to manage world-wide materials procurement and transport (\$1 million annually) for a water-engineering project in Ghana.

Research Design and Data Management: Survey design, data collection and management for an Alberta Transportation and Utilities study of water treatment facilities in 140 Alberta municipalities.

1989

Consultant for Office Automation

Consulting to the Stanley Technology Group on word-processing instruction, this assignment came to encompass general computer troubleshooting, standards specification, some application design, and later a full-time position with a member company.

1988-89

Design Study: Digital tomography system

In conjunction with Axialtome Corporation, San Carlos, CA, I researched and wrote the design specifications for a computer-aided enhancement package for their tomographic X-ray products.

1982-1989: Education

An early interest in medicine lead me to Psychology, where the science of inquiry into such a variable subject as the human animal fostered an appreciation for a rigorous approach to asking the right questions and a set of tools for acquiring and interpreting answers.

BSc Specialization: Experimental Psychology (Visual Perception, Cognition, and Social Psychology). Also minors in Art History and Cartography. 1984, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

September 1986 to April 1988: partial fulfillment of MSc program (Psychology), University of Alberta. Proposed thesis: "An Expert System for Consultation in Diagnosis of Breast Cancer from Mammograms." Terminated to pursue business interests arising from research involvements.

Publications

Caelli, T.M., & Yuzyk, J. (1985). What is perceived when two images are combined? *Perception*, 14, 41-48.

Caelli, T.M., & Yuzyk, J. (1986). On the extraction and alignment of image edges. *Spatial Vision*, 1, 205-217.

Concurrent Projects

Research and development collaboration; patent application (1985-88)

With Dr. T. M. Caelli, Department of Psychology, and Drs. D. Hatcher, P. Schuller, and M. Eggert, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Alberta. I designed and implemented software (and built some hardware) for a system to measure tissue changes from dental X-rays. For an application to patent this system (still pending), I wrote the technology brief (including diagrams) that eventually became the body of the Claims section.

Edmonton Transit Service: Onboard Bus Signage Evaluation (1987)

ETS was about to adopt wide-scale use of electronic route number and destination signs on their buses. In response to concerns about legibility and ease of use, they commissioned this study of alternatives and selection guidelines.

Client Instructor, University of Alberta Department of Computing Services (1982-87)

I started teaching staff and students how to use the University's mainframe computer, developing a teaching model that tried to reach down to users in an era when nobody (in particular) had a computer. The topics were the same as they are today: word-processing, number-crunching, and e-mail, but on a system where the computer was anything but immediate. Later, with the introduction of the Macintosh and IBM PC, I taught roughly the same things, except that they operated right in front of the user. The principles, however, remain the same.

Research assistant for Dr. E.C. Lechelt, Chairman, University of Alberta Department of Psychology (1985-86)

This laboratory investigated tactile perception, or touch. I wrote PC-based software to run experiments and analyze data, and built various computer-connected devices to deliver stimuli and collect responses.

Research associate with Dr. T.M. Caelli, Killam Science Chair, University of Alberta Department of Psychology (1983-1985)

In this human and machine vision laboratory we used a range of computers and custom-designed software for human vision research and machine vision applications. I maintained several PDP-11 minicomputers and IBM PCs, writing image-processing software to support our research projects, and later for commercial prototype applications. I also coordinated the lab's publication work, managing manuscripts and grant proposals.

Research assistant for Dr. P. Dixon, University of Alberta Department of Psychology (1980-83)

This cognition laboratory concentrated on early-stage signal categorization, and factors influencing people's ability to follow instructions. I wrote software to operate several Apple II machines, coordinated experiments, and analyzed data.

Survey Design and Analysis for Wm. Shields and Associates Ltd. (1984)

Coordination of a study of adult educational needs for the Chinook Educational Consortium: data collection and tabulation, results analysis and recommendations.

My Favourite Tools

A good friend suggested I add to my resume what I like to do. I thought about it a while and realized the things that I most like to do involve using tools that I most like using, because they represent the day-to-day reality of what I like doing.

My Brain

Fortunately, I am blessed with a good one. Not just for the work that has become my career, but for other endeavours too. I have a curious mind that always wants to understand and know more, about pretty much any topic. I learned to read early, and as a young teen I devoured crossword and logic puzzles to set the stage for an interest in *solving things*. Collecting stamps taught me about far-flung parts of the world, places and things. Playing several musical instruments and dabbling in a couple languages (human and computer) taught me how to think in varied ways.

My Eyes and Ears

I am an observer first, a thinker second, and an actor after that.

Education

In high school I was in the debate club, which gave me several tools:

- Research (library card catalogues, following cross-references)
- Analysis (juggling data, balancing disparate arguments)
- Communication (writing and public speaking)

My multi-disciplinary [university](#) education gave me another set of tools:

- How to ask the *right* questions.
- How to seek the best answers among reasonable alternatives.

Independently I learned the power of [Lateral Thinking](#) to discover non-obvious solutions and see the world in new ways.

I also started my teaching experience then, trying to convey the new concepts of computers to scared middle-aged women that feared the new machines replacing their typewriters and foreign students in a new world that just wanted to write their theses and graduate.

Collected Wisdom

First the Library, now the Internet. I can't know everything, but I can know how to gather and sift through the wisdom of others to add it to mine. Coupled with an ability to read quickly and work a web browser, I enjoy surfing the seas of data, collecting information that can make me smarter.

Words

With a pencil for scribbling, later MS Word for printing, now vi and HTML, I enjoy sharing thoughts and ideas with people. I always have pencil and paper on me, for the last 30+ years, to record notes and ideas.

Spreadsheets

Spreadsheets are my favourite form of ad hoc programming, and sometimes graphics. I've used them to create budgets, forecasts, databases, my taxes, even logos and business cards. The stretchable grid (sometimes cube) of cells that can collect data or be coloured or programmed has been a source of inspiration since my first exposure to [Lotus 1-2-3](#).

Perl

I've used a number of programming languages over the decades, and still use a few others, but Perl has stood the test of time against all newcomers. Even the currently fashionable. I use it in my job, and I use it in my hobbies and it's the language against which all others are compared.

HTML

HTML lets me present information I can share in a way that everyone can consume now that the Internet is everywhere. From this résumé to my [blogs](#) to the [IPRSM](#) application that pays my bills HTML has become the *lingua franca* of Internet communication and carried on from my days using and teaching TextForm, and earlier publication markup language in the pre-Desktop Publishing days.

Computing Experience

This is a synopsis of the environments and tools I have used (and can remember) over the past few decades. In addition to these items, I have wide-ranging experience with smaller applications and utilities from the custom-designed, commercial, shareware, and open source markets.

Platforms	Intel and AMD 80x86, Apple 6502, 680x0 and Power Macintosh, DEC PDP-11/x, Amdahl 5860, Sun 3	
Operating Systems	Linux: RedHat since 5.2; RHEL 3-7; Fedora; OpenBSD; Ubuntu	server / desktop
	Windows: 3.x, 95, 98, NT 3.x+, 2000, XP, 2003 SBS	server / desktop
	OS/2: 2.x, Warp, LAN Server 4.0+	server / desktop
	Apple: Macintosh System 4+	desktop
	Other: OpenBSD, Netware 3.x+, MTS, RT-11, Unix	server
Environments	KDE, Gnome, X Window, Apple P-System, DOS 1.x+, DesqView, GeoWorks	
Virtualization	VMWare Workstation, KVM	
Peripherals	LaserJet servicing; scanners and digitizers; cable/DSL, fax and data modems; hubs, switches, routers; video capture	
Services	NEW: Blog: Wordpress; CMS: Joomla!, Drupal; Domains: CPanel	
	OLD: CompuServe, BBSs, AOL, Telex, WWW, mail, news, gopher, ftp	

		DOS	Windows	OS/2	Linux	Other
Words	Word-processing	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	Macintosh/System 7
	Desktop Publishing	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	Macintosh/System 7
	TEX	XXXX		XXXX	XXXX	
	Text Manipulation	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
	HTML		XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
Numbers	Lotus 1-2-3	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX		
	MS-Excel	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX		Macintosh/System 7
	OpenOffice		XXXX		XXXX	
	Accounting	XXXX	XXXX			
	Statistics	XXXX				Amdahl/MTS
Pictures	Graphic Design	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	Macintosh/System 7
	Presentation	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
	CAD	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX		
	Image Processing	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	DEC PDP-11/RT-11
	Multimedia		XXXX		XXXX	
Lists	RDBMS	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX		PowerMac/System 8
	SQL	XXXX	XXXX		XXXX	
Wired	Dial-Up/BBS	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX		
	Fax	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX		
	TCP/IP		XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
	NetBIOS, IPX/SPX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX		
	HTTP/SMT/FTP/DNS		XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
	Router/Firewall				XXXX	
	VPN		XXXX		XXXX	
Languages	C	XXXX		XXXX		
	Rexx	XXXX		XXXX		PowerMac/System 8
	Perl	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
	Python				XXXX	
	PHP				XXXX	
	AutoLisp	XXXX	XXXX			
	Pascal	XXXX	XXXX			Apple II/P-System
	FORTRAN	XXXX				DEC/RT-11
	Assembler	XXXX				Apple II/ P-System

OS/2 Experience

2012 UPDATE: It's not likely anyone will ever care to ask me for anything useful I might remember about OS/2, but I leave this section in because I learned a lot about many important computing things with OS/2 that relate to my other computing and professional interests.

I used OS/2 as my primary desktop platform from version 2.0 in spring 1992 to Warp in winter 2001. I chose OS/2 because once I learned what I could do with a multi-tasking computer system (previously Windows 3.x) I wanted one that was reliable and still open to all the software I needed to support. After a few hardware difficulties that lead me to learn a great deal about how OS/2 worked, my office systems have all run 24/7, working for me.

I worked for a year doing OS/2 Warp technical marketing for IBM Canada (West). I also taught OS/2 and LAN Server courses for IBM Education and Training and PBSC Computer Training Centre. In 1993 I founded CAOS/2: Central Alberta OS/2 Users Group to provide a method of support and information exchange for users of this operating system.

Understanding of OS Issues

Defending my choice of Operating System has lead me to investigate the competition, fortunately tempered by significant experience with other non-Intel systems. I do not do my research on the news-stand since their "information" has become largely self-serving and rarely reliable. Instead, I focus on true technical literature and Internet resources to find "real" comparative information.

Planning: Hardware, Software, Infrastructure and Humanware

Since OS/2 is a real Operating System, it generally requires more forethought prior to its installation/implementation than did DOS or Windows. Following the carpenter's adage "Measure Twice, Cut Once," I know how to prepare resource budgets and provide realistic projections for future growth or change. I also understand the importance of a well-designed implementation and trained user base to the reception of a new system.

Implementation: manual and automated, stock and customized

I've done enough manual installs to understand how they work, and appreciate OS/2's automated remote-installation features. This is the only way to do large-scale, controlled installations with any sanity.

Configuration

OS/2 provides a wide array of configuration options that usually eludes users and corporate MIS staff. I have configured OS/2 machines in many different ways over the years, and have learned what works and what doesn't.

Operations and Troubleshooting

Running a few full-time OS/2 machines and helping others do the same, combined with my technical understanding of the system, has taught me how OS/2 ages over time, and simple proactive measures that can be implemented to avoid problems. This year (1995) I have also become more familiar with OS/2-based system management software (NetFinity, SystemView/2, CID). Over the last three years I have fielded hundreds of calls from other OS/2 users, and follow (as best I can) problem and solution reports from the Internet.

Education

Over the last 30 years I have taught computing courses, and have gathered skills for making computing understandable to all who care to try. During my tenure with IBM Marketing I demonstrated OS/2 hundreds of times to everyone from retail customers to user groups to VARs and consultants. I have taught certification-level OS/2 courses for IBM (and now PBSC Computer Training Centres) since March 1995.

Leveraging

I have long realized that it is not sufficient to merely "install" one computing system or another. OS/2 drew my interest (and kept it) because it allows an incredible amount of leverage to be gained from a single PC and some software. Realizing that potential and harnessing it separates Companies that Compute from Companies with Computers.

Linux Experience

I have been using RedHat Linux as my primary Internet server platform since version 5.2 in spring 1997, with no security issues because of a sound design driven by paranoia about the Big Bad Internet. I chose Linux because once I learned what I could do with a multi-tasking computer system (previously OS/2 2.x and Warp) I wanted to move up a level to something that was even more reliable and secure and Internet-ready. When I had little further need to use or support Windows applications I began using RedHat Linux 7.x for my desktop and daily operations. I have also used OpenBSD (3.2) for a server application, and several other Linux variants like [Ubuntu](#), [Debian](#) and [Arch Linux](#).

Mostly I use [Fedora](#) (15+) for my

- Primary desktop
- Web/Mail and Backup servers
- Laptops
- [MythTV PVR](#)

and Ubuntu/Debian for

- [Music noodling](#)

Professionally, I use

- [Fedora](#) for my development work for [iPRSM®](#), using Perl and Apache
- [RedHat](#) Enterprise Linux (RHEL) 4, 5, 6, and 7 on two dozen remote servers hosting iPRSM® on a modified LAMP stack
- [CentOS](#) 5, 6, and 7 for a RedHat-compatible deployment-testing environment

Understanding of OS Issues

My experiences with OS/2 prepared me with a sound understanding of what an operating system should be, and moving to Linux was not a large step to take. The Internet has a vast range of self-support resources - I know how to ask the right questions and research to find viable answers.

Configuration

Linux provides a wide array of configuration options that usually eludes users and corporate MIS staff. I have configured Linux machines in many different ways over the years, and have learned what works and what doesn't, and why.

Operations and Troubleshooting

Running a few full-time Linux machines and helping others do the same, combined with my technical understanding of the system, has taught me how systems "age" over time, and simple proactive measures that can be implemented to avoid problems.

I run or have run servers for DNS, FTP, HTTP(S), MySQL, SMB, SMTP, SSH, and VPN services for multiple domains.

I use VMWare and KVM virtualization to run MS-Windows when I have to and CentOS/Ubuntu for testing.

Leveraging

I have long realized that it is not sufficient to merely "install" one computing system or another. Linux drew my interest (and kept it) because it allows an incredible amount of leverage to be gained from a single PC and some software. Realizing that potential and harnessing it separates Companies that Compute from Companies with Computers.