

About the Author

Mark C. Langston has been a professional jack of all trades for the past fifteen years. During that time, he's run mail systems, dealt with data retention issues, worn the white hat of the security trade, debugged routers, designed and maintained naming systems, written firewall rulesets, programmed, soldered, punched down, spliced, crimped, changed tape reels, replaced disk packs, interviewed, evangelized, bled, chanted, danced, pleaded, and connived, all in the name of Keeping Things Running Smoothly™. And through it all, he's tried to find the time to write things down, so others could have some inkling of what he's done.

Mark holds several degrees in experimental cognitive psychology, into which he fell after deciding education was its own end, rather than a path to employment. During his academic career he studied artificial intelligence and artificial life, and the memory processes involved in comprehension. He's published numerous papers on the latter.

Mark has worked for a broad range of employers, from one of the largest power companies in the United States, to small R&D departments of consumer electronics manufacturers. He's worn many hats, from lab assistant to trainer to senior sysadmin, from consultant to Chief Technical Officer. Mark has been an invited researcher at the German Institute for Artificial Intelligence in Kaiserslautern, Germany, and he's been an invited guest on TechTV's "The Screen Savers" television show.

Mark is currently the Senior UNIX Sysadmin for the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California.

Mark lives in San Jose with his loving partner and cat, both of whom pretend to tolerate his obsession with computers, if only because it feeds their insatiable appetite for sushi. When Mark isn't juggling his workload, he's working on his five-ball cascade and four-club shower.