

# Richard Morin

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My employment history and independent activities reflect a common interest: the use of computers as a tool for organizing and presenting information. From my early work as a scientific programmer, through my use of computers to mechanize document production, to my current interest in [Model-based Documentation](#), this theme keeps appearing.

I prefer problems that require all of my skills: analysis, design, documentation, programming, writing, and editing. I am particularly interested in the intersection of programming and technical writing, as found in document generation systems, software-backed web sites, etc.

## Professional Interests:

- Data flow analysis and data structure design
- Design and implementation of maintainable and robust systems
- Information management and presentation
- Knowledge engineering (e.g., metadata-driven and rule-based systems)
- Software quality and documentation
- User experience and ease of use

## Skills & Qualifications:

**Development** – Skilled at systems analysis, design, documentation, implementation, and troubleshooting. Expert in the selection and creation of data filters and data analysis techniques. Substantial experience in software prototyping, development, testing, debugging, and maintenance.

Extensive record of creating maintainable, robust, and well-documented systems. Very experienced at creating structured procedural programs, using (as needed) complex data structures and object-oriented programming techniques.

Committed to producing quality products, using clean and consistent programming practices: attention to detail, automation, bulletproofing, and user experience evaluation; thorough and careful work, from analysis to documentation.

**Languages and Tools** – Comfortable with a large variety of document markup and data representation formats, including **dot**, **HTML**, **LaTeX**, **PDF**, **POD**, **PostScript**, **Troff** (including preprocessors), **Unicode**, **YAML**, and **XML**.

Expert user of **Perl**. Comfortable with other interpreted programming languages (e.g., **awk**, **bash**, **PHP**, **Python**, and **Ruby**), as well as compiled languages such as **C/C++/...** and **Fortran**. Familiar with many programming languages, including **Assembler**, **Icon**, **Lisp**, **PostScript**, and **SQL**.

Very experienced with **Unix** and similar systems (e.g., **BSD**, **Linux**), including **system** and **network administration**. Experienced at using and administering **Mac OS X**, including many Macintosh tools and applications.

Experienced in the discovery, installation, and use of add-on (e.g., software development and documentation) tools. Very knowledgeable about **Open Source** licensing issues, community practices, and resources. Experienced in **web site** design, implementation, and maintenance using **Apache**, **CGI** scripts, **DHTML**, **HTML**, **PHP**, **Rails**, and **XML**.

**Written and Verbal Communication Skills** – Skilled at technical writing, editing, and proofreading. Experienced in producing clear and complete documentation and reports, using both interactive and batch-mode processes and tools.

Able to provide coherent verbal explanations and presentations. Comfortable with a variety of document preparation tools (e.g., **Acrobat**, **BEdit**, **Frame**, **Keynote**, **LaTeX**, **MS Word**, **OmniGraffle**, **Pages**, **TextMate**, **Troff**, and **vi**).

## Research Projects:

Most of my research projects are related to [Model-based Documentation](#), my approach to organizing documentation so that it matches the structure of the system being documented.

I maintain an open collection of "project notebooks" in the [Projects](#) web of CFCL's [TWiki](#). My most active sub-project is a second-generation version of **Arti**, my mechanized documentation system for **Rails**.

## Employers and Tasks:

- **Apple Computer** - review and edit technical documentation
- **Compression Labs** - create graphics support software
- **Decru** - re-architect and re-organize internal web site
- **GLAST Project** - create web site for a scientific software project
- **Motion Analysis Systems** - create general-purpose graphics library
- **Postini** - perform maintenance and enhancement of an Intranet site
- **Prime Time Freeware** - edit and publish Open Source collections
- **Principles & Applications** - enhance manufacturing optimization software
- **Rational Genomics** - enhance an interactive genetics application
- **Reactrix** - develop and maintain web-based applications
- **Sievers Security** - maintain and enhance a business software suite
- **Simply Hired** - prototype data mining infrastructure for web server logs
- **Spiderworks** - lead author of a book on Spotlight
- **Stanford Medical Informatics** - edit and retarget the Protégé User's Manual
- **Sun Microsystems** - provide telephone technical support
- **Zelerate** - edit software project documentation
- **Zengine** - create documentation and training materials

## Publications and Courses:

### Articles:

I have had more than 200 items published in print and online journals, including:

- book reviews and two columns (*The Human Factor* and *The Internet Notebook*) for UNIX Review (later known as Performance Computing, now an [online publication](#)).
- *I/Opener* column in SunExpert (later known as Server/Workstation Expert).
- *Silicon Carny* column in SunWorld Online.
- *Section 7* column and occasional articles in [MacTech](#).

### Books:

- As the proprietor of Prime Time Freeware, I published and performed supervisory editing on several dozen items:
  - *MacPerl: Power and Ease* (book w/CD; also wrote some content)
  - *MkLinux: Microkernel Linux for the Power Macintosh* (book w/CD; also editor)
  - *Prime Time Freeware for Unix* (book w/CD; also editor)
  - Several collections of Open Source software (book w/CD, CD set)
  - 20 "DOSSIER" collections of Open Source documentation (book/ebook; also editor)
- Published by [SpiderWorks](#):
  - [Mac OS X Technology Guide to Spotlight](#) (book/ebook; co-author, with David Hill)

### Courses:

- *Advanced Awk and Shell Scripting*
- *Berkeley UNIX System Administration*
- *Introductory Awk*

## Activities and Organizations:

Served on the board of the [Independent Computer Consultants Association](#); founded the DC chapter

Founding board member of the [Sun](#) User Group; edited some early SUGtapes.

Host of the [Beer & Scripting SIG](#), an informal monthly gathering of Bay Area scripters. Long-time supporter of the [San Francisco Perl Users Group](#).

## Education:

B.A. Economics, 1970  
San Francisco State University

## References, Bona Fides, Disclaimers:

References available upon request. I can show proof of my ability to work within the United States. My preferred location is the San Francisco peninsula and northwest portions of Silicon Valley. I am not willing to relocate or accept positions requiring extensive travel.

## Work History:

2006 - 2008

**Reactrix Systems, Inc.** ([www.reactrix.com](http://www.reactrix.com)); web programmer -  
develop and maintain internal applications, based on the Ruby on Rails framework

**Stanford Medical Informatics** ([protege.stanford.edu](http://protege.stanford.edu)); editor -  
edit the Protégé manual; create Ruby-based tool chain to produce HTML and PDF versions

**Decru** ([www.decruc.com](http://www.decruc.com)); webmaster -  
re-architect and re-organize internal web site, using CSS, HTML, JavaScript, MySQL, PHP, and TWiki (Perl).

**Apple** ([www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)); technical editing -  
update the Leopard man pages to reflect conformance changes for UNIX03 certification.

**Simply Hired** ([www.simplyhired.com](http://www.simplyhired.com)); Perl programming -  
prototype input filtering and email reporting software for data mining of web server logs.

**Spiderworks** ([www.spiderworks.com](http://www.spiderworks.com)); writing -  
co-authorship (with David Hill) of [Mac OS X Technology Guide to Spotlight](#). This book provides a developer's introduction to [Spotlight](#), [Apple](#)'s metadata-based desktop search facility.

2004 - 2005

**GLAST Project** at SLAC ([www.slac.stanford.edu](http://www.slac.stanford.edu)); contract documentation -  
Creation of software to [generate documentation](#) for the [Flight Software](#) group of the [Large Area Telescope](#) in the upcoming [Gamma-ray Large Area Space Telescope](#) mission. Creation and editing of tutorial and other documents.

**Postini** ([www.postini.com](http://www.postini.com)); contract programming, writing, and editing -  
Rework of internal documentation web pages for QA group. Creation of "dashboard" reporting framework to generate daily and weekly web pages on development status.

2000 - 2003

**Rational Genomics**; on-call consultant -  
Development and maintenance of **Visual Genome**, a Perl/Tk-based program for viewing and manipulating genetic sequence data.

**Sievers Security** ([www.sieverssecurity.com](http://www.sieverssecurity.com)); on-call consultant -  
Development and maintenance of Perl-based report-generation programs for job costing and other business functions.

**Zelerate**; consultant -

Development of code- and system-level documentation for a large, Perl-based e-commerce application.

**Zengine;** consultant –

Development of documentation and training materials for a large, Perl-based e-commerce application.

#### 1990 - 2000

**Prime Time Freeware** ([www.ptf.com](http://www.ptf.com)); founder / editor / publisher –

Prime Time Freeware published books and CD-ROMs on Free and Open Source (aka *libre*) software. The first product was *Prime Time Freeware for Unix*, which appeared in several editions. Other PTF products during this period include *MacPerl: Power and Ease*, *MkLinux: Microkernel Linux for the Power Macintosh*, and *The Darwin Collection*, as well as collections covering AI, TeX, and UnixWare.

#### 1984 - 1990

**Apple Computer** ([www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)); contract employee –

Member of the development team for A/UX (an early version of Unix for the Macintosh). Reviewed and enhanced technical documentation and "man pages".

**Compression Labs;** contract employee –

Development and maintenance of C++ graphics software to support experimentation in video compression.

**Sun Microsystems** ([www.sun.com](http://www.sun.com)); contract employee –

Telephone support for SunOS and Solaris in Sun's Answer Center.

**Motion Analysis Systems;** consultant –

Development and maintenance of Fortran-based graphics software.

**Principles & Applications;** consultant –

Development and maintenance of C- and Fortran-based software for manufacturing optimization in the clothing industry.

#### 1974 - 1984

**Naval Research Laboratory** ([www.nrl.navy.mil](http://www.nrl.navy.mil)); consultant –

Worked on a variety of satellite-related projects (e.g., command and control, data reduction), primarily in Fortran, at the Space Science and Space Systems Divisions. The satellite-based astronomy projects included the High Energy Astronomy Observatory (HEAO) A-1, Solar Maximum Mission (SMM), and SolRad HI.

**Acroamatics** ([www.acroamatics.com](http://www.acroamatics.com)); employee –

Worked on a variety of satellite- and telemetry-related projects, primarily in Assembler.