



# Stephen McGregor

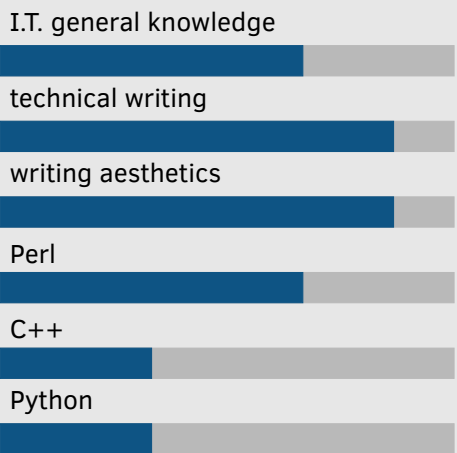
Technical writer

- Kapiti Coast, New Zealand
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- [github.com/AbsurdMagpieScrutinies](https://github.com/AbsurdMagpieScrutinies)
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## About me

Friendly, clever, educated. Stephen collects information, history books, music and GNU/Linux documentation while trying to watch only the best cinema. Nearly every day he'll spend a couple of hours programing or messing with his Debian GNU/Linux setup. Stephen has sung in many many choirs and, since starting to listen to audiobooks, [reads](#) (that is listens to) up to six each month. Living in Istanbul for most of the last eight years he's now, finally, returning home.

## Skills



## Interests

Complicated systems, taking notes, bringing order to chaos, opportunities.

## Experience

- 2014-17 Proofreading, Editing @ multiple clients & nationalities editing  
Stephen set up a small business, found clients and companies, and complied with their deadlines, style guides, and invoicing policies. **Technical:** manuals, academic papers, many IT docs, technical web-sites, contracts, chemical publications. **Non-technical:** corporate publicity, trade-show documentation, governmental statements & reports, brochures, personnel reports. See my work list [here](#).
- 2013 Technical Writer (contractor) @ Contact Energy SAP Migration  
Collected documents and unwritten wisdom from SMEs. Produced parts of the required specifications for a major SAP migration.
- 2010-13 Proofreading, Editing @ multiple clients & nationalities editing  
See 2014-17.
- 2008-10 English Teacher @ Istanbul, Turkey English  
Taught classes & private students, generated course materials.
- 2008 Technical Writer @ Country Energy (Australia) systems migration  
Documented a set of major upgrades and virtualizations.
- 2007-08 Technical Writer @ Alcatel-Lucent telco  
In a team, documented a small subset of Alcatel-Lucent's telecom-communication hardware and processes. Worked on a New Zealand-wide telephone system replacement, the installation of VoIP and other IP services.
- 2007 C++ Developer @ NZ Racing Board (The TAB) GUI  
Developed a GUI (touch-screen) for the TAB's point-of-sale computers. C++ on Fedora Linux in a Qt environment, plus Perl (tests).
- 2006-07 Technical Writer @ EDS/Telecom NZ telco  
WebSphere, Genesys IVR system, VoiceXML voice-recognition.
- 2005-05 Embedded Developer @ MAS Zengrange embedded & telco  
Assembly & C development, including IC and GPS chip drivers.
- 2002-03 Technical Writer @ Link Communications (Australia) telco  
Wrote 600-page manual for continent-wide telco system (C).
- 2001 Technical Writer @ National Bank NZ bond trading  
Bond-trading systems' (C++) as-builts and system diagrams.
- 1998-2000 C++ Developer & B.A. @ Quality Systems C++, ERP  
Coded & helped design a trade discounts & rebates ERP module.
- 1996-98 Network Analyst, Quality Mgr @ Enerco NZ networks  
Network, economic modelling, quality manuals, analyses, auditing.
- earlier computer operator; steel mill analyst; computer lab supervisor; AI researcher; sas programmer; research assistant; statistics tutor; gold-mine lab worker; entrepreneur; market researcher; antiques restorer; statistical analyst; barman; metalworker.





## Education

- 2005 post-grad electronic physics Victoria University  
electronic physics, geomagnetism, filters, DSP, fibre optics
- 2004 post-grad diploma Otago University  
advanced international marketing, tourism, third-world marketing
- 2003 graduate diploma Otago University  
electronic design and systems, microcontrollers, physics
- 1993 B.Sc (Chemistry) Otago University  
chemical engineering, organic chemistry, bio-tech, pharmacology
- 1990 B.Com (Marketing) Otago University  
market research / international marketing



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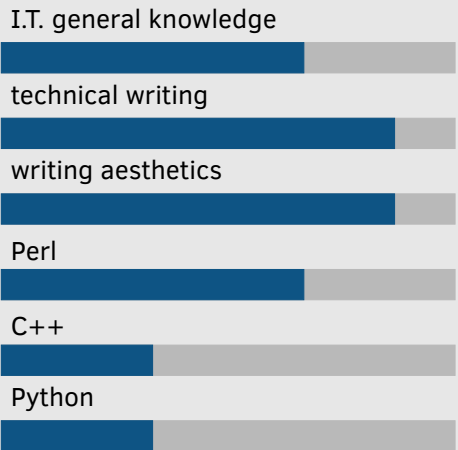
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## Skills



## Skills

- Tech writing** Since 2001, mostly manuals for telecommunications & IT. Also APIs, as-builts and banking. A collector & reader of style guides.
- Editing** Proofread and edited thousands of commercial, technical, IT, legal and miscellaneous documents. Broad range of clients.
- Telecoms** Professionally developed a telecoms device. Documented many different telecoms systems. Studied fibre optics at post-grad level.
- Embedded** A qualified and experienced embedded developer. Used dsPic, Atmel & FPGAs. Grad Dip(Electronics) and studied post-grad.
- Coding** Perl 5, C, Python, C++, assembly. Formerly SAS, SPSS. Coding since 1983 and still coding most days. My Github is [here](#).
- Applications** Microsoft Office, Inkscape, Visio, Gimp (like Photoshop). Vim. Trados Studio, Wordfast. Have used MadCap Flare, Adobe InDesign.
- Platforms** Unix since 1989, Debian GNU/Linux since 2001, Microsoft since MS-DOS. My first computer was a ZX-81.
- Database** MySQL, sqlite3, some Oracle. Intermediate-level SQL but very familiar with databases. Many database-orientated roles.
- Commercial** Telecoms, heavy industry, finance, defense, utilities, software. Started own small business. Two business degrees.
- Modeling** Modeling for a \$35m capacity purchase, a \$10m economic project and a \$20m legal case. Capacity reporting for Telecom NZ.
- Sys Admin** Networking, wireless, iptables, security & encryption, udev and /sys, /proc, kernel stuff, sound and video formats, backups, logs.
- Statistical** Was a statistical analyst; studied statistics to uni second-year.
- Analytical** National Network Analyst, BA. An analytical, technical disposition.

## Samples

My brochure is [here](#) and my creative CV [here](#). These and more on [github](#).  
A System Manual I wrote is [here](#) and an API, Dev Guide is [here](#). A sample System Guide can viewed [here](#) and an IVR / voice recognition as-built I wrote is [here](#). Many examples of my editing and Proofreading can be downloaded from [here](#).  
A few of my infoviz Visios can be seen [here](#) and an art-piece in UML (yes) is [here](#).

## How it is

I am all about tech and writing, programming and taking notes. I am doing exactly this most of the day, most days, anyway, so I might as well be helping you or your client. Just look at my experience. I've worked in or with most industries and businesses and I'm familiar with most technical domains.  
So, maybe you want to hire someone else? Well, I've dealt with a few technical writers in my time and *every single one* has, both, written poorly *and* has had neither any feeling for, nor any real understand of, technology. For example, you have been sent a pile of Microsoft Word CVs full of "strategized leveraged convergence" and "facilitated next-generation methodologies". Meanwhile, I learnt latex ( $\LaTeX$ ) from scratch to make this CV, and there's not one overly vague participle or emotional adjective to be found in it. The choice is simple: either me, or one of them. I know who I'd choose.