

Rob Pike

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Robert "Rob" Pike (born 1956) is a Canadian programmer and author. He is best known for his work at Bell Labs, where he was a member of the Unix team and was involved in the creation of the Plan 9 from Bell Labs and Inferno operating systems, as well as the Limbo programming language.

He also co-developed the Blit graphical terminal for Unix; before that he wrote the first window system for Unix in 1981. Pike is the sole inventor named in AT&T's US patent 4,555,775 or "backing store patent" that is part of the X graphic system protocol and one of the first software patents.^[1]

Over the years Pike has written many text editors; sam^[2] and acme are the most well known and are still in active use and development.

Pike, with Brian Kernighan, is the co-author of *The Practice of Programming* and *The Unix Programming Environment*. With Ken Thompson he is the co-creator of UTF-8. Pike also developed lesser systems such as the vismon program for displaying images of faces of email authors.


Pike also appeared once on *Late Night with David Letterman*, as a technical assistant to the comedy duo Penn & Teller.^[3]

Pike is married to Renée French, and currently works for Google, where he is involved in the creation of the programming languages Go and Sawzall.^[4]

See also

- The Plan 9 from Bell Labs operating system
- Acme: A User Interface for Programmers
- The Plumber
- The Sam text editor

Rob Pike



Born	1956 (age 60–61)
Nationality	Canadian
Occupation	Software engineer
Employer	Google
Known for	Plan 9, UTF-8, Go
Spouse(s)	Renée French
Website	herpolhode.com/rob/ (http://herpolhode.com/rob/)

- Mark V. Shaney
- *The Unix Programming Environment* (1984 with Brian Kernighan)
- Go (programming language)
- Sawzall

References

1. Rob (2006-06-11). "Command Center" (<http://commandcenter.blogspot.com/2006/06/i-cant-find-this-on-web-so-here.html>). Commandcenter.blogspot.com. Retrieved 2013-06-25.
2. McIlroy, M. D. (1987). *A Research Unix reader: annotated excerpts from the Programmer's Manual, 1971–1986* (<http://www.cs.dartmouth.edu/~doug/reader.pdf>) (PDF) (Technical report). CSTR. Bell Labs. 139.
3. "Penn and Teller Late Night With David Letterman" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4iVAcYyWN0&feature=youtu.be&t=184>). Retrieved 2016-12-13.
4. Pike, Rob; Dorward, Sean; Griesemer, Robert; Quinlan, Sean (2005-01-01). "Interpreting the Data: Parallel Analysis with Sawzall" (<http://research.google.com/archive/sawzall.html>). *Scientific Programming*. **13** (4): 227–298.

External links

- The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: The Unix Legacy (<http://herpolhode.com/rob/ugly.pdf>) – Slides of his presentation at the commemoration of 1000000000 seconds of the Unix clock.
- Systems Software Research is Irrelevant (http://doc.cat-v.org/bell_labs/utah2000/) (a.k.a. utah2000) slides (<http://herpolhode.com/rob/utah2000.pdf>)
- Pike's personal homepage (<http://herpolhode.com/rob/>)
- Pike's Google homepage (<http://research.google.com/people/r/>)
- Questions and Answers with Rob Pike (<http://interviews.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=04/10/18/1153211&tid=189&tid=156&tid=130&tid=11>) by Robin "Roblimo" Miller (published in Slashdot in October 2004)
- Concurrency/message passing Newsqueak (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hB05UFqOtFA>) on YouTube (Google Tech Talks May 9, 2007)
- Structural Regular Expressions by Rob Pike (http://doc.cat-v.org/bell_labs/structural_regexps/) slides (http://doc.cat-v.org/bell_labs/structural_regexps/se.pdf)
- The history of UTF-8 as told by Rob Pike (http://doc.cat-v.org/bell_labs/utf-8_history/)
- Pike's appearance with Penn & Teller on Letterman (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4iVAcYyWN0>) on YouTube

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