

## AHARON (ARNOLD) ROBBINS

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*Summary:* Seeking opportunities to design and develop interesting computer software and to provide technical leadership.

*Qualifications:* Graduate degree in Computer Science, including compiler and operating system development projects, as well as courses in communications and networking. Over 25 years experience with different Unix systems, Linux, MS-Windows, and C/C++ programming, in both academic and production environments. This includes extensive scripting experience in shell, awk, and the general Unix toolkit. Many years experience developing products in deadline-based environments. Extensive System and Network Management experience, knowledgeable about Unix and Linux system internals. Excellent written and spoken communication skills.

### *Open Source / Free Software:*

I maintain GNU Awk (`gawk`) and its documentation. I have been working with `gawk` since 1988 and have been the sole maintainer since 1994. `gawk` comes with almost every known Linux distribution, as well as with most of the different free BSD systems. Literally millions of systems run my software. (See <http://www.gnu.org/software/gawk/>.) I have been active in the Unix and USENET communities since the early 1980s.

### *Experience:*

2/08 to Present: **Intel.** Position of *Software Engineer* at the Intel Design Center in Jerusalem. Most work has centered around software for managing systems supporting Intel AMT (Advanced Management Technology), part of the vPro suite of features. As a member of the *Software Development Kit (SDK) team*, I participated in the development of a new C# CIM Framework and led the design and implementation of a new C++ CIM Framework which is portable to both Windows and Linux. I was the primary author of the C# High Level API (HLAPI) for writing management applications using a higher-level abstraction than straight CIM classes. As part of the *Hidden Lake team*, I participated in a number of Proof-of-Concept tasks for an advanced Intel architecture and provided considerable training to the team in Unix, Linux, and BSD. Most recently, as part of the *Kit Team*, I participate in the design and implementation of Kit components and device drivers.

7/97 to Present: **O'Reilly Media, Inc. and Prentice Hall.** Since moving to Israel with my family in 1997, I have authored or co-authored a number of books for O'Reilly Media, Inc. (formerly O'Reilly and Associates), and Prentice-Hall. See the details, below. I also have done contract programming.

3/05 to 1/08: **Ness A.T. Ltd / TSG.** Position of *Team Leader, Simulation*. Responsible for the simulation component of a large Command and Control system being developed for the Air Force of a democratic country. Duties included supervision of a junior developer, writing Requirements and Design documentation, and designing and writing software in C++, using both Visual C++ on Windows XP and GCC on Linux. Development was done primarily on Windows, using Qt 4 as the multi-platform windowing toolkit, but interim and final deliverables were on Linux. As the resident Linux expert I was also responsible for making sure that all the software remained portable to Linux, as well as for anything else related to Linux. This included writing scripts and doing other work to make installation of the delivered programs go smoothly. I acquired reasonable proficiency with Visual Studio and Microsoft Word. I also acquired experience learning and working with a very large C++ code base, consisting of close to four million of lines of code.

10/99 to 9/01: **Applied Microsystems Inc.** Worked as a contract programmer on two separate projects, both in C++. Both projects were program instrumenters: programs that read source code, add instrumentation calls, and write out the modified source code. The first project was to write an instrumenter for Ada 95. The second project involved adding a type system, similar to that of a full compiler, to the existing C instrumenter. I began work on a type system for the C++ instrumenter, but the project was stopped when they had to cut costs. Both projects involved verifying that the instrumenters worked under Windows NT; that development used Microsoft Visual C++ from the Cygwin environment.

*Experience (continued):*

- 1/95 to 6/97: **Star Imaging LLC.** Position of *Software Engineer, Team Leader*. Primary accomplishments include integrating drivers for three electronic color copiers into the company's PostScript interpreter, shell script improvements to speed up the processing of files, integrating support for the Summagraphics Summachrome thermal wax printer into the company's Windows product, and improving the Unix product's Summachrome support. Notable work includes significant enhancement to the Windows product's Summachrome and Inkjet printer support, and threading of the PostScript interpreter to speed up printing on color copiers from the Unix product. All Unix development was done using Solaris 2.4, 2.5, and 2.5.1 on SPARC platforms, including the UltraSPARC. In the spring of 1996, I was given the position of team leader for the Sun product. From the fall of 1996 through the summer of 1997, I played a key role in the development and integration of the company's Unix product, **colorstar**<sup>TM</sup> 4.0, 4.01, 4.02, 4.02c and 4.02e, including release management.
- 10/91 to 12/94: **Georgia Tech College of Computing.** Position of *Research Scientist II*, teaching and developing courses in the College's Continuing Education division. Co-developed and taught courses for IBM in multi-vendor (Sun, DEC, HP, and IBM) Unix system network integration and multi-vendor Unix system network problem solving. Co-developed a course on the fundamentals of TCP/IP networking. Co-developed a course for HP in multi-vendor Unix system and network administration, focusing on migrating to the HP-UX environment. Developed on my own and taught the Introduction to C class, the Intermediate C class, the Introduction to Networking class, and the course on OSI networking. Taught and updated other Unix courses, including Introduction to Unix, Unix Shell, Unix Tools, and Unix System Administration. I gained good course development skills and teaching skills.
- 11/89 to 8/91: **AudioFAX, Inc.** Position of *Senior Software Engineer*. Participated in the design and implementation of the company's first Unix-based product, an enhanced Audio and Facsimile platform. Honed my design and development skills, and acquired good experience in working in a team environment. Development work was done on Intel 80386-based systems under Unix System V Release 3.2. Some work was also done on beta versions of System V Release 4.
- 2/86 to 11/89: **Emory University, Information Technology Division** (formerly the Computing Center). Position of *Systems Programmer III*. Responsible for the day to day management of a Sun 4/280 and a Microvax-II. In January of 1989, these replaced two DEC VAX 11/780s. In the summer of 1988, installed and continued to manage the campus's link to NSFnet via SURAnet. Also responsible for assignment of host names and IP network numbers to all campus machines using TCP/IP protocols. Upgraded both VAX systems in the summer of 1986 from 4.2BSD to 4.3BSD with Sun's NFS, from Mt. Xinu. Installed and maintained the X.25 connection to CSnet in the fall of 1986. EUCC was the first site to run this software under 4.3BSD; I was very involved in the software fixes to make this happen.
- 1/84 to 1/86: **Georgia Institute of Technology, School of Information and Computer Science.** Position on lab staff, maintaining, porting, and writing applications for the department's VAX/Unix systems (4.1 and 4.2BSD), Prime computers, AT&T 3B2 and 3B20A computers (System V Release 2), and the Institute's Pyramid 90x (Unix 4.2BSD and System V). Applications included a screen editor and text formatter. Completed extensive improvements to the Bourne shell (including a history mechanism) and the porting of a large backup system from System V to 4.2BSD. Acquired a good working knowledge of `nroff` and `troff`.
- 12/81 to 11/82: **Southern Bell.** Part-time programming consultant. Developed two on-line information retrieval systems in C, under Unix 4.0 on a DEC PDP-11/70.

*Publications:*

*Prentice Hall Open Source Software Development Series.* I am the Series Editor for this series of books from Prentice Hall that focuses on Open Source software development. (See <http://prehallprofessional.com/opensource/dev>.) The series currently includes 14 books, with more on the way.

*Bash Pocket Reference*, First Edition, ISBN 978-1-4493-8788-4. O'Reilly Media, Sebastopol, California, 2010. This pocket reference provides complete coverage of the current version of the Bash shell. (See <http://oreilly.com/catalog/0636920010166/>.)

*Publications (continued):*

*Learning the vi and vim Editors*, Seventh Edition, ISBN 978-0-596-52983-3. O'Reilly Media, Sebastopol, California, 2008. For the sixth edition, I revised the basic text of this book, and wrote five new chapters and a new appendix. The new material covers four vi clones (nvi, elvis, vim, and vile), and vi in the larger Unix and Internet culture. The book more than doubled its original size. The seventh edition updates all this coverage and adds additional material on vim. (See <http://oreilly.com/catalog/9780596529833/>.)

*UNIX In A Nutshell – GNU/Linux, Mac OS X, and Solaris*, Fourth Edition. ISBN 978-0-596-10029-2. O'Reilly Media Inc., Sebastopol, California, 2006. This is my second revision of this book. It now covers the current generation of Unix and related systems. Besides coverage of three operating systems, I added new information on the vim editor, the Bash shell, the GDB debugger, GNU Make, and much more. (See <http://oreilly.com/catalog/9780596100292/>.)

*GDB Pocket Reference*. ISBN 978-0-596-10027-8. O'Reilly Media Inc., Sebastopol, California, 2005. This pocket reference is a comprehensive quick reference for the GDB debugger. GDB is the standard debugger on GNU/Linux and BSD systems and works on practically all known Unix systems, as well as on Windows systems. It is the de-facto standard debugger in the Open Source world. (See <http://oreilly.com/catalog/9780596100278/>.)

*Classic Shell Scripting*. ISBN 978-0-596-00595-5. O'Reilly Media, Sebastopol, California, 2005. This book is co-authored with Nelson Beebe, of the Mathematics department at the University of Utah. It teaches how to do shell programming, focusing on the Unix “toolbox” approach. (See <http://oreilly.com/catalog/9780596005955/>.)

*Linux Programming by Example: The Fundamentals*. ISBN 0-13-142964-7. Prentice Hall PTR, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, 2004. I wrote this book from scratch. It teaches the fundamental Unix and Linux system calls, using a “by example” approach. Wherever possible, the demonstration code is extracted from either the V7 Unix system or from current GNU programs. (See <http://www.linux-by-example.com>.)

*Learning the Korn Shell*, Second Edition. ISBN 978-0-596-00195-7. O'Reilly and Associates, Sebastopol, California, 2002. I updated this book for the 1993 version of the Korn shell, including the many new features added in recent releases from AT&T Research. The book now covers all the features of the Korn shell. (See <http://oreilly.com/catalog/9780596001957/>.)

*Sed & Awk Pocket Reference*, Second Edition. ISBN 978-0-596-00352-4. O'Reilly and Associates, Sebastopol, California, 2002. This is a “quick reference” for sed, awk and gawk, and for Unix regular expressions. It is a companion volume to *Effective AWK Programming*, and *sed & awk*. (See <http://oreilly.com/catalog/9780596003524/>.)

*Effective AWK Programming*, Third Edition. ISBN 978-0-596-00070-7. O'Reilly and Associates, Sebastopol, California, 2001. The book fully explains the Awk programming language, as well as serving as the documentation for GNU Awk. It is over three times the size of the preliminary draft I started with. (See <http://oreilly.com/catalog/9780596000707/>.)

*vi Editor Pocket Reference*, First Edition, ISBN 978-1-56592-497-0. O'Reilly and Associates, Sebastopol, California, 1999. This is a “quick reference” for vi and ex, a companion volume to *Learning the vi Editor*. (See <http://oreilly.com/catalog/9780596529123/>.)

*Sed & Awk*, Second Edition, ISBN 978-1-56592-225-9. O'Reilly and Associates, Sebastopol, California, 1997. I prepared the second edition, fixing many mistakes, and updating it for POSIX awk. I thoroughly revised the entire book, and added an entire new chapter. (See <http://oreilly.com/catalog/9781565922259/>.)

Former Contributing editor for *Linux Journal*. I wrote the *What's GNU?* column.

*Crafting A Compiler With C*, by R.J. LeBlanc and C.N. Fischer. Benjamin/Cummings, 1991. ISBN 0-8053-2166-7. I translated all the programs and algorithms from the Ada versions in *Crafting A Compiler*; into C, for this book.

*Publications (continued):*

*Event Driven Monitoring of Distributed Programs*, with R.J. LeBlanc. Proceedings of the IEEE Fifth International Conference on Distributed Computing Systems, May 1985. Reprinted in the IEEE-CS tutorial *Distributed-Software Engineering*, IEEE Computer Society Press, 1988. This paper was derived from my M.S. thesis, and describes the design for a monitor for distributed programs.

*Personal:* Married. Four children. U.S. and Israeli Citizen. Date of Birth: 15 December 1959. Moved to Israel: 31 October 1997.

*Education:*

1983 GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, Atlanta, Georgia. M.S. Information and Computer Science. The M.S. work included a thesis on the design of a distributed program monitor.

1981 YESHIVA UNIVERSITY, New York, New York. B.A. Information Science.

*Miscellaneous:* I am a member of Usenix and a former member of the IEEE Computer Society, and the ACM. I was also a member of the balloting group for the 1993 IEEE POSIX 1003.2 standard (command language and utilities).

*Languages:* English: speak fluently, with excellent writing and speaking skills.  
Hebrew: read, write and speak comfortably.

*References:* Available upon request.