

# About the author, David Haskins

I was born in 1950 in Chelsea, London, but grew up in New Zealand returning to England in 1966. I have worked in the computer industry since 1975 after a couple of years as a professional drummer.

My first experience was five years as a mainframe hardware engineer for Sperry Univac (now Unisys) followed by 14 years as an analyst programmer with British Telecom in London.

While engaged in a complex task of converting large quantities of geographical data (map coordinate references) I discovered the joys of C – its speed and efficiency. That was in 1985 and I have been a fan of C ever since.

Since 1994 I have been a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Computing, Information Systems and Mathematics at Kingston University, London. This is a mostly technical university that evolved from a former polytechnic college with a long tradition of aeronautical engineering.

I am engaged mainly in teaching many computer languages and internet systems design to a large and multicultural student body.

Most of my academic research and commercial consultancy has been involved with spatial systems design and the large data volumes and necessary processing efficiency concerns has led me to concentrate on C and C++. My teaching web site is at [www.ubiubi.org](http://www.ubiubi.org) which shows some of this material.

A keen Open Systems enthusiast, I have exclusively centred all my teaching on the Linux platform since 2002 and Kingston University is well advanced in delivering dual boot facilities for all its student labs.



I am a keen swimmer and in 2009 completed the annual Lorne *Pier-to-Pub* race in Victoria, Australia which is the largest open-sea swimming race in the world where 4,500 people of all ages swim each January as the shark-spotting planes fly overhead.

When not teaching I am a keen vegetable gardener and amateur musician, playing in jazz groups and in Scottish bagpipe bands. I play the drums, the great highland bagpipe, the clarinet, the guitar and the piano.