

# SAGE-AU

The System Administrators Guild of Australia

## SAGE-AU '98

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & General Meeting

**Dates: Monday 6 July 1998 to Friday 10 July 1998**

**Venue: Old Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, Australia**

The 1997 conference, held at Melbourne Zoo, was always going to be a hard act to follow. Some would argue that holding the '98 conference in Canberra has made a difficult job almost impossible.

This year's program offers a rich diversity of tutorials and talks, and we have more invited speakers than ever before. The depth of talent has forced the SAGE-AU conference organisers to add an additional day of tutorials; for the first time ever there will be 3 days of tutorials commencing on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of July. The conference program is two days commencing on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> of July. In response to a suggestion by international speaker Barbara L. Dijker, a panel discussion on System Administration Certification will be held during the conference. Professional certification is an issue that regularly resurfaces so it should be interesting to hear the opinions of our expert panel.

Melbourne Zoo proved a novel venue and we hope the Old Parliament House in Canberra will be just as enjoyable. The OPH offers excellent facilities, is

within walking distance of many of the attractions in the parliamentary triangle, is well serviced by public transport and will offer the chance for session chairs to ask for "Order in the House"!

Canberra offers excellent restaurants (more per capita than any other Australian city) and cafes, has some wonderful wineries in the surrounding district. It offers many activities for the outdoor enthusiasts, from cycling to rock climbing. If you'd like some information on activities in or around Canberra, check the Canberra Tourism web site at:  
<http://www.canberratourism.com.au/>

Guest speakers for the conference are Barbara L. Dijker, Marcus J. Ranum and Andrew Tridgell who will all be talking at the conference and providing tutorials. In the past the tutorials presented by our guest speakers have been very popular, and most attendees find the experience very rewarding. Book in early to avoid disappointment.

*This article continued on Page 13  
Tutorial/Conference Program on Page 4*

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### Table of Contents

#### Executive

General Information.....	2
President's Report.....	2
Secretary's Report.....	3

#### SAGE-AU'98 Tutorial and Conference Program .. 4

#### Articles

Why I am Not a Professional System Administrator .....	6
The Profession of System Administration - A Response ...	8
What Next? .....	10
Netscape's Mozilla Source Release.....	10
Queensland Regional Group Report .....	11
Stow Away .....	12
Working in Hong Kong .....	14

#### Items for Sale..... 13

#### Mailing Lists ..... 13 |

#### Regional Groups..... 16

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# Executive

## General Information

The Australian Systems Administrator is the official newsletter of the Systems Administrators Guild of Australia. It is produced four times per year and distributed free of charge to members of **SAGE-AU** via e-mail or snail mail.

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## President's Report : System Administration Evolution?

It seems to me that we no longer get to do the thing we set out to do and that is be a System Administrator.

System Administration starts out simple (and if you saw my talk at the SAGE-AU conference last year then some of this will be familiar), operating the systems on a day to day basis, performing installations, upgrades and maintenance, providing helpdesk support for users and general problem solving skills. Then after serving your apprenticeship you graduate to things like capacity planning, system and network design and configuration, system end of life and replacement, project management and user education.

This is where the evolution stops and something else takes over.

As well as the old nemesis of becoming a "manager" there are now a number of new areas which lead us away from Systems Administration and it seems that most of them have their origins in the effects of the Internet.

Security is now a huge issue which almost every System Administrator must deal with on a day to day basis. Now, some system administrators thrive on this stuff and it does have merit but getting buried in the production of "Computer Usage Policies" and "Computer Security Policies" can get very tedious when you are doing it for the nth time. Then the worst part, the System Administrator becomes the Internet policeman :(

Spam is another of those things which the Internet has bought to us. I feel very sorry for several of the System Administrators that I know and the level of garbage they have to deal with on a daily basis because the "net.loonies" out there think that the Internet is just a cheap way to advertise.

With the Internet growing at such a huge rate (and good system administrators not as fast) a phenomenon is occurring which is of even greater concern. That is, the vendors are now trying (and I emphasise trying) to produce black box solutions for complex problems. The organisations that are lucky enough to have System Administrators find that these types of equipment are often not as effective as more flexible solutions because the System Administrators find themselves having to configure (often suboptimally) and manage these boxes via a web page with often no way to automate the process. So much for scalability.

I don't have any answers for what is happening to our profession but I do suggest that you all consider the future of systems administration and how the Internet is affecting it. Maybe it is a problem we can solve.

*Craig Bishop, President SAGE-AU*

## Secretary's Report

Here we are at another newsletter. My, doesn't time fly.

You should all now have nice new SAGE-AU keyrings (you know, that cute shiny thing :-). This is the initiator of several new SAGE-AU services. It serves as the initial password for the "Member Only" services on the www page - namely the mailing list archives and search engine.

Also, included with this newsletter is a frame-able copy of SAGE-AU's Code of Ethics which you should feel proud to hang above your desk at work, displaying to the world at large that you are a professional Systems Administrator. This Code of Ethics will also be distributed to every new SAGE-AU System Administrator as part of our new member welcome kit. Nowadays, being a SAGE-AU member gives you a whole lot more!!

If you read my last report you would know I was planning on making myself redundant via automation. Well, as all System Administrators know, this just never happens. No sooner do I have spare time on my hands, I dream up ways to use (or should that be "lose") it.

One of the new tasks I have thrust upon myself has been to make videos of past, present and future talks and conferences available for all the members. In an attempt to make them manageable, I have had to heavily compress them using somewhat proprietary compression techniques, but at least they are freely available. My only qualm is that there is only a windows player for them at present.

So if you have not looked at them, they range from 6 Meg to 36 Meg, approximately 12 minutes to 73 minutes. Most of the new videos are 4 frames per second, full colour and 16bit sound.

This was mainly done to support more of the remote SAGE-AU System Administrators who are remote from the regional capitals which have the groups and talks. It is also for the people in other chapters who can't make an interstate trip for a good talk. It goes without saying that these videos are a SAGE-AU member only service.

We (SAGE-AU) have been through another round of renewals for members who joined around the December/January time frame.

Currently we have:

Chapter	Members
Vic.....	104
Qld.....	87
NSW.....	75
WA.....	21
ACT.....	14
Tas.....	12
SA.....	4
NT.....	2
O/S.....	9
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>328</b>

Congratulations should go to the newly formed Tasmanian chapter for increasing their membership by over 62% in the first few months of operation.

Congratulations also go to Victoria, for not losing a single member in the last renewal period.

Another item which happened without much song and dance (which shows how well it was done :) was a move of SAGE-AU's Web site and FTP site to a new machine and location. connect.com.au and SUN Microsystems of Australia have kindly donated to SAGE-AU bandwidth and the hardware to increase the use and capacity of these services. The FTP site is now growing again, almost double in size in fact.

Well, that about wraps up my report for this newsletter; see you all in the next issue. If you haven't already done so, please check and update your address information via the URL:

<http://www.sage-au.org.au/resource/details.html>.

That way, things like this newsletter and keyrings can actually make it to you :)

Remember! Have fun, don't work too hard and see you all at Old Parliament House in Canberra this July for the SAGE-AU'98 Conference.

*David Conran, Secretary, SAGE-AU*

# SAGE-AU'98 Tutorial & Conference Program

## Mon 6<sup>th</sup> July 1998 : Tutorial Day #1

- 8:30am Registration
- 9:00am **Secure Communications over Open Networks**  
*Marcus J Ranum*  
*Network Flight Recorder*  
*mjr@nfr.net*
- 9:00am **Tcl and Java**  
*Steve Ball*  
*Zveno Pty Ltd*  
*steve@tcltk.anu.edu.au*
- 12:30pm Lunch
- 1:30pm **Secure Communications over Open Networks (cont.)**  
*Marcus J Ranum*  
*Network Flight Recorder*  
*mjr@nfr.net*
- 1:30pm **Perl 5 Distribution and Module Installation Guide**  
*Anthony David*  
*adavid@adavid.netinfo.net*

## Tue 7<sup>th</sup> July 1998 : Tutorial Day #2

- 8:30am Registration
- 9:00am **ISP System Administration**  
*Barbara L Dijker*  
*NeTrack*  
*Colorado*  
*Barb.Dijker@labyrinth.com*
- 9:00am **PC/Macintosh Interoperability**  
*Dr Lubosh Hanuska*  
*Division of Psychology*  
*Australian National University*  
*Lubosh.Hanuska@anu.edu.au*
- 12:30pm Lunch
- 1:30pm **Managing Acceptable Use (inc. SPAM)**  
*Barbara L Dijker*  
*NeTrack*  
*Colorado*  
*Barb.Dijker@labyrinth.com*
- 1:30pm **Documentation Techniques for System Administrators**  
*Michael Ciavarella*  
*Cybersource*  
*mikec@cyber.com.au*
- 5:00pm Close

## Wed 8<sup>th</sup> July 1998 : Tutorial Day #3

- 8:30am Registration
- 9:00am **Intrusion Detection and Network Forensics**  
*Marcus J Ranum*  
*Network Flight Recorder*  
*mjr@nfr.net*
- 9:00am **Auditing - The Unexpected Ally**  
*Geoff Halprin*  
*The SysAdmin Group*  
*Geoff.Halprin@sysadmin.com.au*
- 12:30pm Lunch
- 1:30pm **Auditing - The Unexpected Ally (cont.)**  
*Geoff Halprin*  
*The SysAdmin Group*  
*Geoff.Halprin@sysadmin.com.au*
- 1:30pm **Samba**  
*Andrew Tridgell*  
*(Author of Samba)*  
*tridge@samba.anu.edu.au*
- 5:00pm Close

## Thu 9<sup>th</sup> July 1998 : Conference Day #1

- 8:30am Registration
- 9:00am Official Opening and Welcome  
(Craig Bishop, SAGE-AU President)
- 9:15am **The State of Intrusion Detection**  
*Marcus J Ranum*  
*Network Flight Recorder*  
*mjr@nfr.net*
- 10:05am Questions
- 10:15am **WIP: PCs into Xterminals**  
*David Conran*  
*Department of Mathematics*  
*University of Queensland*  
*lucifer@maths.uq.edu.au*
- 10:30am Morning Tea
- 11:05am **Large NT Roll-Out**  
*Steve Jenkins/Ray Roche*  
*GE Capital IT Solutions*  
*sjenkin@pcug.org.au*
- 11:55am Questions
- 12:05pm **Linux in a Commercial Environment**  
*Bradley Marshall*  
*Plugged In Software*  
*bmarshal@plugged.net.au*

12:30pm	Questions	11:10am	<b>Planning &amp; Deploying Large Scale Windows NT Servers for Win95/ WinNT Clients</b> Gavin Carmont Bond University gavin@bond.edu.au
12:35pm	Lunch	12:00pm	Questions
1:40pm	<b>The Workflow of System Administration</b> Geoff Halprin The SysAdmin Group Geoff.Halprin@sysadmin.com.au	12:10pm	<b>SPAM SPAM SPAM SPAM</b> Pauline van Winsen Uniq Professional Services pauline@uniq.com.au
2:20pm	Questions	12:50pm	Questions
2:25pm	<b>When in Doubt, Log</b> Chris Lambertus University of California, Davis cmlambertus@ucdavis.edu	12:55pm	Lunch
3:15pm	Questions	2:00pm	<b>Application Management Middleware</b> Paul Whittaker Department of Defense paw@si1.dod.gov.au
3:25pm	Afternoon Tea	2:25pm	Questions
3:55pm	<b>WIP: MTAs and Monkey Wrenches</b> Bruce Campbell Hub Communications brucec@humbug.org.au	2:30pm	<b>Inside Microsoft Networking</b> Andrew Tridgell tridge@samba.anu.edu.au
4:10pm	<b>Panel Discussion: "System Administration Certification"</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Conran (SAGE-AU Secretary)</li> <li>• Barbara L Dijker (SAGE-US Board member &amp; Invited Speaker)</li> <li>• Marcus J Ranum (Invited Speaker)</li> <li>• TBA</li> <li>• TBA</li> </ul>	2:55pm	Questions
5:00pm	<b>SAGE-AU Annual General Meeting</b>	3:00pm	<b>Eddie (Essential Distributed Diagnostic and Information Engine)</b> Rod Telford & Chris Miles connect.com.au rtelford@connect.com.au
6:30pm	AGM Close	3:25pm	Questions
7:00pm	<b>Conference Dinner</b>	3:30pm	Afternoon Tea
<b>Fri 10th July 1998 - Conference Day #2</b>			
9:30am	<b>An Approach to Global Service Provision</b> David Sammut/Chris Levanes CiTR Pty Ltd d.sammut@ctr.com.au	4:00pm	<b>Sendmail and DNS</b> Barbara L Dijker NeTrack Colorado Barb.Dijker@labyrinth.com
10:05am	Questions	4:50pm	Questions
10:10am	<b>Growing Pains : Scaling Systems and Sysadmins</b> Kate Lance connect.com.au Pty Ltd clance@connect.com.au	5:00pm	<b>Conference Wrap Up &amp; Close</b> (New SAGE-AU President)
10:35am	Questions	<hr/> Please Note: This program was correct at time of printing, but it will be necessary to make changes/updates in the weeks leading up to SAGE-AU'98. Please consult <a href="http://www.sage-au.org.au/conf.html">http://www.sage-au.org.au/conf.html</a> for the most up-to-date program details.	
10:40am	Morning Tea	<hr/>	

# Why I Am Not A Professional System Administrator

by Elizabeth Zwicky

First published in ;login: Vol. 22, No. 6 (December 1997)

The first thing we need to get straight is that I am not, in fact, a professional system administrator. You might be confused on this point; I was, until some time last month. After all, I'm clearly not an amateur system administrator - I don't think I've ever administered a system for the sheer joy of it. I also believe that my work as a system administrator is of high quality and displays those semitangible qualities known collectively as "professionalism" (as in, "Well, painting the tail-light red with nail polish does meet the legal requirements, but it's hardly the professional way to repair it".)

But over the years in working with SAGE, it's been clear that there's a big comprehension gulf between me and many of my colleagues, often despite mutual respect that verges on hero-worship. Early on in SAGE prehistory, it became clear that you could divide the board very neatly into people who were interested in professional issues and people who wanted to do random things to make life better for system administrators. On one side, for instance, we had the people arguing for a code of ethics and certification; on the other, we had the people arguing for local groups and Web sites with FAQs on them. Each side thought the other side's most important issues were kind of cute, but not really important. We made progress mostly because we found occasional areas of overlap and because the two agendas are parallel. If you have enough people, you can pursue them both without major problems.

However, we occasionally end up in actual conflict. The code of

ethics, for instance, is an obvious benefit for some people, whereas I find it at best a harmless idiosyncrasy and at worst an intolerable attempt to control matters of conscience. That's not actually what I want to debate right now, but it is the deciding issue that pushed me back into discussing these matters with people.

And it was in the middle of that discussion that somebody made a key observation. It's these issues, he said, that divide professional system administrators from people who're just in it for the money - not that he'd accuse me of just being in it for the money. I hate to shatter anybody's illusions, but I'm in it for the money. I didn't know there was anything wrong with that. As I said, I've never in my life administered a system for the sheer joy of it, and I am roughly as likely to start as I am likely to start playing football for amusement. (Although I must admit my motivations are slightly mixed, I am clearly not in it for the money as much as some people, having reduced a recruiter to a state of near-speechlessness in which he could only gasp, "You're not willing to be snowed on for a quarter million dollars a year?" Apparently, I was supposed to salivate at the sound of the cash register bell.)

Now, I think it's unethical to be a minister just for the money, or even a doctor. I also think it's unethical to do a bad job at something in order to make a fast buck. I think it's unhealthy to care more about money than anything else about your job. But I see nothing wrong with picking any

branch of working with computers as an honest way of making a living, doing a good job of it, and going home at night with no particular further commitment.

Partly this is because I grew up in the academic world, where jobs you might admit to having are divided roughly into three camps. There is real work, which involves adding to the world's supply of knowledge. There is honest work, which is, well, most of the other ways of making enough money to keep body and soul together. And then there are a few callings, like ministries and the arts, which you do out of sheer love for it. Being a system administrator, like being a lawyer, secretary, accountant, truck driver, engineer, or waitress, is honest work. The distinctions between these jobs have to do with things like how much they pay, how pleasant they are, and what core competencies they demand. You can lump them together in lots of ways; for instance, you can make a distinction between blue-collar and white-collar jobs, jobs that require uniforms and ones that don't, and sedentary and active jobs.

Apparently, many other people can divide these things into professions and jobs, and most of these people who are system administrators believe that system administration really is a profession and it is important to convince everybody else of it. I am deeply unclear on this concept. It is clear to me that "profession" is a cultural construct, which is high status. Something that is "unprofessional" is bad. Being a professional is good. My grandmother thinks I am a

professional because the TV ads for trade schools talk about "highly paid computer professionals". Besides, I have a college degree. My mother-in-law doesn't think I'm a professional, because I have only a bachelor's degree and because in her mind any job you can wear shorts and sandals to is not a profession.

As far as I can tell, that about sums up the state of things when it comes to defining a profession. For most people in the world, system administration already is one: you have to learn a lot of stuff, and you get paid (relatively speaking) lots of money. For the rest of the world, the key indicator for whether or not something is a profession is how much you have to suffer to enter the field, and anything that doesn't involve a long and expensive degree process is just not worth considering. The difficulty of convincing people that what you do is a profession varies according to the social status of what they do, along with its mystique. Try convincing an engineer - not a Certified Network Engineer but a genuine we-build-dams-that-don't-fall-down (often) civil engineer, for instance - that system administration is a profession in the same sense that engineering is. It isn't going to work, but when you get depressed trying, you can always amuse yourself by trying the same argument only using any nonmathematical profession (dentistry, say, or being a professor of Romance languages). Or you could try to convince a doctor that civil engineering is a profession in the same sense that medicine is. As a party game, this

is kind of amusing, but I have better things to do in real life.

So, it turns out, I am not a professional system administrator. I am still trying to decide what I am - a practical system administrator, perhaps.

This opens up the question of what I am doing involved with SAGE, which is "dedicated to the advancement and recognition of system administration as a profession". (It seemed to me that I had seen USENIX describe itself as an association for advanced computing professionals, but we

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***"... any job you can wear shorts and sandals to is not a profession."***

---

appear to currently settle for "USENIX is the advanced computing association," without specifying who or what associates.) It certainly seems to call into question how I managed to get an award for advancing the profession.

And the answer here may be a certain amount of confusion on both sides. What I consider to be nice, straightforward ways of making system administrators' lives better often strike other people as somehow involving "system administration as a profession." For instance, I'm

known to believe that system administration makes a perfectly reasonable career, not just somewhere you go while you're waiting to grow up to be a programmer. I publish about "professional" (i.e., nontechnical) issues. (The idea that a squeaky octopus is more of a professional issue than a sendmail.cf file strikes me as a trifle bizarre, but if you divide the world into "technical" and "professional," that's what you get. This may help explain some of my confusion about the entire question.)

I am interested in advancing system administration. I consider the question of whether or not it's a profession somewhat lower in interest than the question of how many angels can dance on the head of a pin, which has a long and honorable history. I think it's naive to believe that it would reduce the political battles, or make people more willing to hire the system administrators that they need, if system administration were widely considered a profession. (Health maintenance organizations seem to have no problem treating doctors with disrespect and understaffing.) I think it's downright offensive to believe that it's necessary to be a professional to deserve respect.

I am therefore going to wander off in my unprofessional way, doing what seems to be the right thing; I invite everybody else to do the same, even if that's making system administration a profession, as long as they promise not to assume that being a professional is an inherent good that should be obvious to everyone. ▲

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*You can find Geoff Halprin's response overleaf ...*

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# The Profession of Systems Administration - A Response

by Geoff Halprin

Elizabeth, in your article you divide people into two groups; "people who are interested in professional issues" and "people who want to do random things to make life better for system administrators".

This stance, however, implies that the efforts of the former group are wasted, and that SAGE and like organisations should be solely technical, only aiding their members in solving technical problems. Whilst that does and always will form a vital core to any services we (should) provide, to limit ourselves to such a reduction, or to suggest that such a reduction is valid is naive (or more likely just provocative :-).

Any system administrator who has been in that role for more than a few months will be very aware of the chasm of understanding between the technical staff and other communities in their organisation such as management and various groups of users.

If a group like SAGE does not help members address that chasm, then who will? Does such effort not "make life better for sysadmins"? Can members (and SAGE itself) not address technical as well as "professional" issues without sacrifice or compromise?

So, what are "professional issues" and what is "professionalism"?

Professional issues, as you have implied, seem to relate to all aspects of being a system administrator which are not strictly technical. (I find it interesting that you argued against us being a profession, yet used this term.) This includes issues relating to ethics, the law, social awareness, management-related issues, people skills, and public awareness of our role; to name a few.

Professionalism, I believe is (as you said) semi-tangible. It's the old pornography argument; I know it when I see it. Professionalism is about taking all reasonable steps to ensure that the job you do meets people's expectations, including the negotiation of those expectations.

In my view, professionalism equates, in some sense, to the responsibility of self-governance.

What, then, is a Profession?

The Macquarie dictionary defines Profession as "A vocation requiring knowledge of some department of learning or science."

My earlier definition of Professionalism is: "Taking all reasonable steps to ensure that the job you do meets

people's expectations, including the negotiation of those expectations."

A Profession, to my way of thinking, is the combination of these two concepts.

As with other professions (the dictionary definition specifically refers to 'the learned professions' of law, medicine and theology - go figure), a profession deals with a complex field of knowledge, requiring a scientific approach and a continuing effort to improve both our personal knowledge, and industry best practices. The 'users' of such professions do not have this same understanding of the field, nor should they.

Part of the duty of the practitioners in that profession, hence, is the education of those who we interact with as to the nature of the role. (At least as much as required to negotiate meaningful expectations.)

Where individuals may practice professionalism, it is a community of such individuals that is required to become a profession.

So, should systems administration be considered a profession?

Society depends more by each passing day on information technology. We are the community which is responsible for the implementation and operation of that technology. This fact alone now precludes personal professionalism as being enough. We must, both for ourselves and our constituents, move from a state of personal professionalism to becoming a professional community.

So, for all of the above reasons, I consider that systems administration should, indeed, be a profession. Becoming a profession, however, is not just a switch to be thrown, but rather a path down which we must travel.

### The Path Less Travelled

As with the professions of medicine, law, engineering, accounting, and whichever other professions I have offended by not explicitly mentioning, members of a profession have a number of professional duties and responsibilities, including;

- Adherence to a Code of Ethics or Code of Conduct.
- Continuing Personal and Industry Development.
- Commonality of Practices.

A Code of Ethics defines the acceptable behaviour for professionals within that field of endeavour.

A doctor is bound by a code of ethics, which includes "do no harm" and patient confidentiality. Similarly, a lawyer and an accountant each have codes of ethics/conduct which they must adhere to. These codes are beyond the 'common law' expectation. The only position of which I am aware which has special requirements which are enforced at law rather than by professional code is that of company director, which has legal obligations of honesty, etc. (Not that these laws are any more binding on unethical people.)

Should a doctor or lawyer or company director breach these codes, the punishment is swift and complete - they are banned from ever acting in that position again. We may never be in such a position with respect to our practitioners. I do not think I would like that responsibility either (although there are some definite attractions :-).

Thus, a professional body must provide a mechanism for enforcing this code; (a) a method for the public to register a complaint about the behaviour of a member, with the teeth to prevent that person from practicing for a period of time where deemed appropriate, and (b) the ability to defend members where they have come into conflict with an employer who attempts to force them to breach this code. This is the crux of self-regulation (imho).

Those organisations which consider their security and information important will turn to just such a self regulatory body when hiring their key people. How many companies do you know who hire accountants which are neither CPA nor Chartered?

Continuing development and commonality of practices are also vital to our existence and development as a profession. I can change accountants without having to spend \$30,000 for them to re-work my personal or company records to their own standards. Likewise, I can change accounting packages fairly readily. One lawyer can (theoretically) interpret and extend the work of a predecessor. The IEEE define a myriad of standards of practice which employers can make use of, and their membership must justify any deviation from.

System administrators, however, will frequently re-invent a site "in their own image" when they first arrive. This lack of commonality of practices is the source of a huge hidden cost of staff turnover, and one we must address as a profession.

The development of appropriate educational standards, training programmes and certifications is also an integral part of the process of becoming a profession.

**A Final Word**

All of the above is merely a collection of opinions to

provoke some conversations about what sort of organisation and professional body we wish to be, and how we might get there.

At present we, the people performing in this role, are the only people who are aware that it is, indeed, a distinct vocation. Ignoring the title debate, the fact is that I am not a programmer, I am not a research scientist, I am not an office administrator. I have a unique (not a qualitative assessment of relative worth) position/role/vocation.

It is a complex vocation. Far more than many others, and at least as complex as any of which I am familiar. Programmers work in isolation; it is left to us to put those bits together and make them work in an ever changing environment. Doctors work with an intricate and complex system. So do we. Engineers must plan activities down to the last detail, and seek to review knowledge and learn from colleagues around the world. So do we.

Management do not understand that we are a distinct vocation, and as such do not assign the necessary resources to match the responsibilities that they would have us undertake. By contrast, it is easier to say "I need another programmer" or "I need another engineer."

A key role of SAGE-AU, and a major reason for the use of the word "profession" is to raise the profile of systems administration as a distinct vocation. Not because we want more money - a market economy is already in force for that, not because we want to feel superior to anyone else, but because we want an environment in which we have at least some chance of meeting our employer's expectations. Because we don't want to work a hundred hour week. Because we do want to keep our body and soul together.

And, if you don't agree explicitly, then that's fine. Like you said so eloquently, "In the end, we all muddle along reasonably happily in pretty much the same direction most of the time". ▲

**Tech Support for InDUHviduals**

This tech support tip is based on a true story . . .

**Problem :** My keyboard is missing all its keys!

**Solution:** Turn it over.



## What Next?

by Hal Miller (halm@usenix.org)

Don't get me wrong. We still have a long way to go. There are now two SAGEs fully active and making progress in many areas. We could use more SAGEs...

There is still work to do organisationally, and to ensure recognition of our profession is sufficient to get us the managerial support we need to do our jobs. We are hard at work on education, mentoring/apprenticeship and certification programs, and have a way to go to get there. Efforts are mapped out for a while.

But then what?

Each nation's medical association (AMA, ...) sponsors some form of research, monitors education programs, and manages certification. Each state/province has a bar association handling "continuing education", law school curriculum requirements and certification. They are mostly in "maintenance mode". Is that enough for us? Is SAGE destined to reach a plateau and maintain?

I think not. We may be so busy counting trees that we've failed thus far to appreciate the fact that we're in an awesome forest, but we'll stop counting trees eventually. So, what else should we be doing?

Here are some ideas. This is not meant as a blueprint for future SAGE work, but as a kick-start to get people thinking. My SAGE career is likely to stay in the tree-counting mode, but those who come next will want (should want) to do more.

- **R & D:** not just some simple little tools (although those are always Good), but those larger scale things that we have each always wanted the time to write "correctly", be it backup or job tracking systems, "real" WSYWIG editors that work across platforms, all freeware and available to the whole SAGE community.
- **Pro Bono:** organised volunteer work for agencies that need us but cannot afford to get help, e.g. small charities.
- **A Rosetta Stone:** a guide for how to do 'X' on machine/OS 'Y' when you already know how to do it on machine/OS 'Z'.
- **IPv6 deployment.**
- **Address the "home machine" situation** where we face millions of "under administered" and "under policed" machines on the Internet.

- **Address the management and networking** of the "smart house", car, bicycle, beanbag chair or whatever.
- **Approach the DBA community** and establish ties.
- **Increase influence** over vendors.
- **Delve into the management** of electronic commerce administration and security.

Someone will have to tackle these areas, and most of them are too big to handle by one's self. They're also too important to leave to vendors to solve in "profit-mode". I expect each of us has such a list strewn around our personal (if not collective) synapses. It's not too early to start pulling this together, to start thinking about such things, and to start planning out how to tackle them. ▲

## Netscape's Mozilla Source Release

On the 31st of March, Netscape released the source to "Mozilla" - the core of Netscape Navigator/Communicator under a license that allows others to use and build on top of the Mozilla code base. There are a number of things that form the current Netscape Communicator product that were not released; some third party libraries that Netscape did not have a license that would allow them to release source and also all of the security and cryptographic related functionality because of the current restrictions on USA companies and individuals on exporting software with cryptography capability from the USA. Mozilla as provided by Netscape has no support for "https" or for S/MIME.

This is where the Mozilla Crypto Group comes into the picture - it is a collection of twelve individuals who are familiar with working with SSLey (the extremely popular SSL toolkit written by Eric Young) and decided that a coordinated group effort to add in equivalent or better functionality that Netscape had to remove.

The first task was to add back in basic "https" support and to make it clear that the group was serious and more than capable of achieving their aims, an initial version of Mozilla with https support (which the group is calling "Cryptozilla") was created 15 hours after the release of the source and was being used to connect to 128 bit (full-strength) web servers.

Over the next few months the group expects to track the ongoing Mozilla development and expand the SSLey integration in Cryptozilla to meet the requirements of having a full-strength, cross-platform browser. For those of you that have been looking for a browser to match the functionality of Stronghold or Apache-SSL, Cryptozilla might just be what you have been looking for.

More information about the Mozilla Crypto Group and Cryptozilla can be found at <http://mozilla-crypto.ssleay.org/>

*Tim Hudson, Mozilla Crypto Group, tjh@cryptsoft.com*

# Queensland Regional Group Report

It seems to be some time since the Queensland branch has contributed to the newsletter. Things here are going quite well. We are still holding our meetings every second Thursday of each month in Park Road, Milton. All our regulars keep turning up, although I am unsure whether they come because the beer and pizza are free, or to actually hear the talks. Along with the regulars, each meeting brings new faces.

The fact that we are continually seeing new faces is a clear indication that the talks that are being given (albeit often only after some persuasion) by members of the IT community are providing interest to a large number of people. We are regularly getting between 25 and 35 people per meeting, and occasionally over 40.

One of the most popular talks we have had in recent times was on something that affects us all, although not a technical issue. The talk on Resumes and Interview Techniques and was given by Narelle Stone from CITEC. Narelle was in an excellent position to discuss this topic as she has been involved in interviewing and hiring people for the last 8 years. She gave a thorough and interesting presentation explaining what people "on the other side" are looking for.

Matt Carter, formerly of Squirrel Internet and now at Bond University, gave an excellent presentation covering many issues confronting a system administrator working for an ISP. His talk covered many topics including troublesome users, hardware problems and choices, working with a restricted budget and maintaining security.

ISP's are in the news all the time, often due to mergers and takeovers. Terry Manderson was in the middle of such a merger between Pegasus Networks, Ausnet and Microplex. He had the unfortunate task of trying to implement a secure and workable method of authentication which would allow the identities of companies to

remain complete yet allow any client to utilise the dialin resources of the three national ISPs. Terry gave an excellent talk explaining how and why he used RADIUS to successfully achieve this.

Cost effective solutions seem to be high on people's list of important issues. PC's and the free UNIX's are always an option, but often the hardware is not stable enough. Brad Marshall gave a presentation on using LINUX in a commercial environment (LINUX on Sun Sparc hardware). For Brad's particular needs, he found that running LINUX not only saved money on software licensing costs, but also gave him a marked performance increase. Brad discussed the advantages, disadvantages and some of the problems he had to overcome to implement this solution.

Working on a budget is something we all have to do. Our talk in April was given by Gavin Carmont from Bond University. Gavin, and his colleagues, have recently rolled out a large scale NT server/Win95 client environment at Bond University. Like all universities at the moment, money is not readily available and Gavin spoke in detail of the entire process from planning (they even found money to pay a consultant to agree with them), through testing (please bring home machines in as test machines are not available), through to the finished product where daily administration is performed and everything is working.

In March we had Bob Logan from XSI Technology which supply storage solutions. Bob gave a presentation of what is good, bad and new in the area of fibre channel storage and tape technologies as well the latest developments in backup strategies. The presentation was quite unbiased and gave enough technical detail to those who wanted it.

If you thought that any of these presentations sounded interesting and you are sorry that you had missed it, never fear as David Conran takes

videos of each presentation. If that was not bad enough, he has since "found" some equipment to make each of these talks available over the web. If you have the bandwidth and the time, you may find some of these interesting. You can get these from:

<http://www.sage-au.org.au/resource/videos.html>

Unfortunately the excellent talks that we have had over the last six months are going to be a hard act to follow. Any and all suggestions and requests will be gratefully accepted, as well as all offers to give talks. Presentations that are being planned for the future include a talk on Java workstations including a demonstration of what is currently available and what people are using (this will NOT be a sales pitch) and a talk on auditing and maintaining security in a large network (if I can find the time). The Queensland Chapter is also trying to organise a one day security workshop next November, the content of which is still being developed, but stay tuned.

On a different issue, I recently noticed that the membership numbers for Queensland had slightly dropped. Hopefully between now and the AGM memberships will again start increasing and we can finally top Victoria as the chapter with the most members. Please remember that you can all help with getting our membership numbers up. The more people we have, the better the discussion, presentations and information we can provide for each other.

On a final note, please remember that the AGM for the Queensland Chapter will be held at the June meeting. Start thinking of who you would like as President, Secretary and Treasurer, mark it in your diaries and please come along.

*The Queensland Executive Committee*

# Stow Away

by Paul Young

Once in a while, as a systems administrator, you come across one of those essential tools that really make a major difference to the way that you work. In my current role, I help maintain a large number of Unix systems. These include Solaris, Digital Unix, FreeBSD and HP-UX.

Being your typical systems administrator, I like to install my own tools and packages, particularly if they are security related, and I must have user level and technical documentation for the installation of those packages. To avoid the endless documentation loop and also setup a structured file system, we decided to logically design a system, document it thoroughly and then deploy it throughout the various platforms that we administer.

One of the major problems in package administration is the user PATH versus ease of individual package administration. It is great to have everything in /usr/local/bin - you have a very short path - however when you want to delete/modify/upgrade a package, it can be difficult identifying the individual components, particularly if there are hundreds of packages installed into /usr/local/bin.

The other end of the scale is to install each package into its own file hierarchy and to have a LONG path required to access the different packages. This method has decided benefits in package administration but would require separate documentation for each installation and is inherently prone to being used and deployed differently when you have a team of system administrators maintaining a number of systems.

What we needed was a system that had the benefits of both systems without the drawbacks.

Enter GNU Stow.

Stow is a small Perl script that maintains package hierarchies for you. It works as follows;

Each package is installed into its own directory, with its own bin, man and lib subdirectories. Stow then creates symbolic links for each of the files in these subdirectories into a master hierarchy. The top-level hierarchy is what you need to access the files from a user perspective.

Here is a typical package installation. (I will setup all my packages under /opt/local in the example that follows.)

My favourite shell is bash and there is a new version out. So to upgrade bash I do the following:

```
Unzip and untar the source then:
/configure --prefix=/opt/local/stow/bash.2.01_01
make
make install
```

Now I need to create the symbolic links into /opt/local/bin and unlink the old version of the program

```
cd /opt/local/stow
stow -D bash.2.01 # unlinks the old version
stow bash.2.01_01 # sym links the new version
```

That's it.

Note: I haven't deleted the old version yet so I can roll back out of my upgrade with ease if it becomes necessary.

The technical benefits of this approach are that for programs that use paths that are defined in the makefiles or header files, the files will be installed directly into those locations. From the user perspective, the application binary path is /opt/local/bin, man pages are accessible from /opt/local/man and so on.

The installation method outlined above works well with package distributions that use the configure command, however there are some packages where you need to do a make to compile the package, and then create the directories under the stow hierarchy by hand and copy/move the files into their final location. It's the 90/10 rule - you will find that 90% of your packages can be installed using the method outlined above or some other minor variation. Other packages that have complex path requirements or poor configuration capabilities, need to be looked at on an individual basis.

In summary, I have found stow to be an invaluable tool and consider it a must-have utility. It will make your life easier, shortens your users paths and most importantly will mean that you can document how you set up your systems in a precise, methodical fashion. ▲

Sources:

```
ftp://ftp.sage-au.org.au/pub/gnu/stow-1.3.2.tar.gz
ftp://mirror.aarnet.edu.au/gnu/stow-1.3.2.tar.gz
```



### Reminder:

SAGE-AU Annual Subscriptions are now \$80 for full members and \$40 for students, but if you pay in full before **June 30 1998**, the Subscriptions will be only \$70 and \$35 respectively.

# SAGE-AU '98

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & General Meeting

[continued from Page 1]

**Barbara L. Dijker** is a system and network consultant with Labyrinth Computer Services, the Executive Director and co-founder of the Colorado Internet Cooperative Association, the principal manager and co-founder of another ISP called NeTrack that serves customers world-wide, and finally an elected Executive of the USENIX Systems Administrators' Guild (SAGE).

Recently Barb has been instrumental in forming The Mountain Area Exchange - a US regional Internet exchange. Barb gained her experience working on the front lines in the University of Colorado Computer Science Dept for more than 4 years and prior to that at U S WEST, Lockheed-Martin, and Computer Sciences Corp. She has taught for Addison-Wesley, Digital Equipment Corp, and at conferences in the USA, Europe, Brazil, and Asia.

**Marcus J. Ranum** is the major author of several Internet firewall products, including DEC SEAL, TIS Gauntlet, and TIS Internet Firewall Toolkit. Marcus has managed UNIX systems and network security for more than 13 years, and was involved with the management of whitehouse.gov. In the last 2 years, Marcus has been focusing on the computer security industry, business issues relating to selling and building security product companies, and consultancy. In 1997 Marcus founded Network Flight Recorder, Inc., where he now serves as CEO and President. Marcus is a frequent speaker at conferences, and teaches a number of technical tutorials for USENIX and SANS on diverse topics such as firewalls, UNIX internals, security policies and risk assessment, UNIX system and network performance tuning,

and UNIX application design. He has been giving tutorials for over 6 years, and is one of the top-rated speakers at many national conferences.

**Andrew Tridgell** is one of the most enthusiastic talkers I have ever seen present. Andrew has a lot to talk about, as the initial developer of SAMBA leading a collaborative development effort producing software recognised as first class, even by Microsoft. Best known in sysadmin circles for SAMBA, Andrew's efforts in other areas haven't gone unnoticed. As a researcher in the Department of Computer Science at the Australian National University, Andrew leads the Pious Project. He is also working towards his PhD on a part-time basis, specialising in efficient parallel sorting and search algorithms. Andrew's other research interests include speech recognition, hidden Markov models, recurrent neural networks, parallel filesystems, parallel operating systems, kernel threads, signals and networking. The Linux community recognises Andrew for porting Sparc Linux to the Fujitsu AP1000+ multicomputer.

The conference program is one of the most exciting SAGE-AU has put together. Apart from the chance to hear from (and ask questions of) our international speakers, the conference is a wonderful opportunity to meet sysadmins from around the country, share experiences and seek advice. It's often difficult for the sysadmin to take time off to attend training and conferences, but we are confident the time spent at SAGE-AU'98 will be rewarding for both you and your employer.

Items for Sale		Mailing Lists	
Item	Price (\$)		
SAGE Job Description Booklet	15.00	sage-au	sage-au-exec
SAGE Computing Policy Booklet	15.00	sage-au-announce	sage-au-membership
SAGE System Security Booklet	15.00	sage-au-chairs	sage-au-jobs
SAGE-AU'94 Proceedings	15.00	sage-au-conf	sage-au-skills
SAGE-AU'95 Proceedings	15.00	sage-au-pubs	sage-au-standards
SAGE-AU'96 Proceedings	25.00	sage-rg-exec	sage-rg-tres
SAGE-AU Shirts <sup>2,3</sup>	28.00	sage-nsw-exec	sage-nsw
		sage-qld-exec	sage-qld
		sage-vic-exec	sage-vic
		sage-wa-exec	sage-wa
		sage-bris	sage-rocky
		sage-tas	

**Notes:**

- All prices include postage.
- These are 100% cotton polo shirts in one of four colours (navy blue, teal, wine or black) in sizes M, L, or XL, with a SAGE-AU logo embroidered on it. A few size/colour combinations are currently unavailable (particularly wine and teal) but will be ordered if demand is sufficient.
- These are limited to SAGE-AU members only.

These items are all in short supply, so "first in, best dressed". To order any of these items send a cheque for the amount made out to SAGE-AU to:

Secretary, SAGE-AU, GPO Box 2974, Sydney NSW 2001

Most of the mailing lists are available for members to subscribe to. Please see the page on the website, at: <http://www.sage-au.org.au/resource/maillist.html> for information about joining the various lists.

# Working in Hong Kong

by Brian Meilak (brian@gremlin.com.au)

I had always wondered what it would be like to take an overseas contract. In February I was able to find out first hand by obtaining a short contract in Hong Kong. This is my mouse tale on HK - with assistance from my fellow contractors here. (Conversion AU\$1=HK\$5).

### FLYING IN?

Go business class! Insist on it. If they want you, they will pay. The price that is shown on the business ticket is not what the company will pay. The price that the company who employed me paid for my business class ticket was just above economy class. It all depends on the agent they book the ticket through and how often their company flies overseas. This is also the time to join one of the frequent flyer programs in Oz. The return flight to HK will get you a few trips in Oz. If you're with Ansett and they fly you Qantas, join Qantas as well, it's worth it.

HK is two hours behind Brisbane, three to Sydney and the same timezone as Perth.

### WORK PERMIT?

Fact: you do need a work permit. If you arrive as a tourist, your passport gets a "Visitor - Permitted to remain until (three calendar months after your arrival)". If you stay after that period, the HK government will catch up with you when you go to leave at the airport and they will fine you. After three months, you can extend your stay by one of two methods: 1) getting an employer to help you obtain a work permit, or 2) leaving HK and returning to extend your residency by another three months. 2) can be done by taking a day trip to Macau. Mind you, you can only do this Macau trip once; the HK government will catch up with you the second time you try the trip (so I've been told).

Flying in/out of the country is ok. You can get a three night stop over in Singapore for about \$2500HK. When you leave Hong Kong, the departure tax is \$100HK.

### ACCOMMODATION?

If you're lucky, and your contract is short, your employer (ala contract house) will put you up in a hotel (I define short as a few days to three months). If you have to find your own, it will apparently cost about \$33K HK/month for a very small one bedroom unit that is in a reasonable area (reasonable is as defined by you!). Then you may have to furnish it. It depends on what you negotiate in the deal. You may also have to pay management fees and a government tax, which comes to about 10% of the rent price/month. Or you scan the papers and share...

Hotel living can become painful. One of my co-workers was about to pull her hair out after living in the hotel for 2.5 months. She now has a unit and has the pleasure of being able to cook herself a steak and have caesar salad for dinner at night.

### MEDICAL INSURANCE?

Would suggest you take some out before you go. Now might be the time to get that MasterCard or Visa (or whatever card gives you free medical if you pay your trip with their card). If you have something wrong with you ie. diabetic or asthmatic.. forget insurance.. no one will cover you :-). Get your hepatitis B shots now... they have to be applied over several months.

### FOOD?

Hotel/restaurant food is very expensive. Room service breakfast will cost about \$150HK for OJ, cereal and coffee (at the bistro/coffee shop around \$100HK). Then you have to add the 10% service charge that the hotels and restaurants will apply. This is where the local 7-11 and Welcome stores are your friend. Buy your goodies there and stock up the bar fridge in your room. Nutri-grain 300g will cost \$30HK, 473ml milk \$12HK. (Don't forget to pack that plastic bowl and spoon in your luggage) After you get sick of Macdonalds/Pizza Hut/Spaghetti House, you can try SuperSandwiches - the food there is quite good. Or you could try Cafe de Coral (a canteen that's almost everywhere). I found the food there to be quite good, although my fellow contractors wouldn't eat there again with me.

If you don't eat at the hotel you can eat well on under \$250HK/day. Be adventurous with your meals. The only thing I haven't eaten is chicken feet. I've drawn the line at them. When you eat out at a restaurant, don't be surprised if you end up sharing your table with strangers... space is at a premium. Western food at a restaurant will cost you about \$300HK for a 3 course meal (no drinks) and up to \$1000HK for a very good meal with a drink.

### LAUNDRY?

Get your washing done through the hotel and it will cost you. Find a local laundry. The one I use charges \$28HK for 7lbs of washing. Shirts are ironed for \$15HK.

### THE WORK?

As a contractor I agreed to work six days per week, 10 hours per day. It has worked out to be 12.5 days per 14 days and >11 hrs/day (after you deduct lunch breaks etc). From 1 - 2 pm the offices are empty. Working this long gets quite tiring and becomes non-productive. This happens when you accept a daily rate. This is also what happens when you quote on a job and take someone else's word for conditions (live and learn). The locals work about 5.5 days per week, 8-9 hours per day.

Working with the locals is also interesting. I have been told "yes" can mean one of three things: 1) yes, 2) I heard you, but it doesn't mean anything, 3) go away, leave me alone. To get anywhere with the locals you have

to gain their respect. Period. Find out who the key players in your area are and get them onside. Doing so will make your job easier.

You will constantly be asked if you are on schedule. If you are not, you will be reminded that you may have to make it up. It does help your work if they give you a networked pc. I spend about 1 hour per day trying to find a pc so I can print stuff out and access resources from the web. It also helps if they give you a desk. I have been getting a desk when someone goes on holidays. It is not a good way to work (but this seems to be normal for contractors anywhere).

What I have found (and been told by other o/s contractors as well) is that most of the systems installed in HK were originally supplied as a package by some vendor. Documentation, if any, has not been touched or updated since that initial system/product handover day.

I was also being asked "do you know someone who could do this for us if we need them?". SAGE members: If you don't have a passport, get one! Ya never know!

I have also found the Chinese business people to be the shrewdest business people around.

**TRANSPORT?**

Getting around HK is relatively easy. The MTR (Mass Transit Railway system) can take you just about anywhere in HK. The star ferries cost \$2.20HK to go between Kowloon and HK Island. The Ding Ding trams will take you most places on the north side of the island for \$1.60HK. There are also heaps of buses and the famous red taxis are everywhere. The taxi flag fall is \$14.50HK for the first 2km and \$1.30HK for every 200m after that. Add \$20HK if you cross the tunnel.

**YOU LIKE A DRINK?**

Alcohol is expensive in HK. Beer etc. from the 7-11/Welcome stores is cheap compared to the \$35-75HK you will be charged at most local pub/bars. If you go to WanChai a drink may cost you up to \$75HK if you're not careful. Suggest you always ask how much before you order (and each subsequent order) and don't run a tab. Disco is also alive and well in HK.

**WHERE ARE THE TOURISTS?**

Tourism has virtually dried up so when you do get to go touring or shopping, you may feel a little hounded.

**SHOPPING?**

You can shop cheap like a bargain hunting tourist or shop like the rich. Every overseas designer is here! Hours here are from 10am till 9pm in most places. After some flying visits to the Temple St markets at Kowloon Peninsula, then the ladies street market at Mongkok (MTR exit D3), I found the cheapest shopping at "Garden Street - Fa Yuen Street", Prince Edward, opposite the Mongkok Police Station (MTR exit D1). All the fakes you want - well, maybe they weren't fakes.

For computer bits and pieces the locals suggest "Apple Street" (after the Apple computer) at Sham Shui Po, MTR exit D, Golden Computer Centre. You can buy anything

there. Two other computer centres on the island are the WanChai computer centre above WanChai MTR station and 298 Hennessy Road, Causeway Bay.

If you're after shoes the best place (according to the locals as well) is to go to Mongkok. The street you're after is next to the ladies market, Fa Yuen street.

DVD & CVD are big here at the moment. Discs are about \$20-30HK each at the markets. Shang Lai Tang at Central is an old world Chinese style store. It has very beautiful shawls/dresses and the like.

**MONEY?**

Use your Visa card and extract it from the ATM. Use your Diner's/Visa to pay for your phone calls home. I got some travelers cheques but won't be bothering with them again. Next time I will bring \$AU over with me and change it here. You just need to take a small amount of local \$ for the first day or two or for the taxi from the airport to the hotel.

You have to ask for your change at most places and I have often been short-changed as well. Stick to your guns. I am also constantly being warned by the locals about pickpockets.

**WHAT RATE WILL YOU GET?**

Can't answer this one! A better question is "what rate do they want to pay you?". In October 97, a mob in Sydney was offering up to \$550AUS/day for people to come over here. After 3 weeks, you had to find and pay for your own accommodation. Taking that job would not have been a good business decision, knowing now the costs of living in HK. It depends on why you're working o/s: for a break? for profit? for the experience? From talks with agencies in HK, the expatriate deals are long gone and very hard to come by. If you are out of Oz for >91 days, you don't have to declare your earnings overseas. <=91 days you do. Local HK tax rate is up to 10-15%.

You have to consider what your costs will be. I spend between \$600-750HK/week on phone calls back to Oz. Incidentals are about \$250HK/day, then you have your food costs. If you could get \$500HK/day allowance for costs from your employer, then you won't be out of pocket. This is important if you are still maintaining a residence back in Oz. I will have to negotiate better next time!

I believe that if you can get your Sydney rate (or whatever you're happy with!) and your employer puts up the accommodation, then you're not doing too badly. One of my co-workers believes you should get a higher rate to compensate you for the conditions you work under ie: hotel life, change in lifestyle etc. Each to their own. ▲

**This was overheard at a recent lunch between three SAGE-AU members discussing some computer related problems at work:**  
**"Microsoft Technical Support" : Pick any two!!**  
**- Anonymous SAGE-AU member**

# Regional Groups



## Victorian Chapter

The Victorian group currently meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm at

Upstairs, Café Coco  
129 Smith Street,  
Fitzroy

The group mailing list is *sage-vic@sage-au.org.au*.

- Chair:** Michael Ciavarella  
Michael.Ciavarella@member.sage-au.org.au
- Secretary:** David Burren  
David.Burren@member.sage-au.org.au
- Treasurer:** David Keegel  
David.Keegel@member.sage-au.org.au
- List:** Morrie Wyatt  
Morrie.Wyatt@member.sage-au.org.au



## Queensland Chapter

The Queensland group currently meets at 7:00pm on the second Thursday of every month at

Conference Room, Entry 4  
One Park Road  
Milton, Brisbane

The group mailing list is *sage-qld@sage-au.org.au*.

- Chair:** Jason Andrade  
Jason.Andrade@member.sage-au.org.au
- Secretary:** Anthony Shepherd  
Anthony.Shepherd@member.sage-au.org.au
- Treasurer:** Julianne Weekers  
Julianne.Weekers@member.sage-au.org.au



## Tasmanian Chapter

The Tasmanian group currently meets at 7:00pm on the third Wednesday of every month at

University of Tasmania, Hobart

The group mailing list is *sage-tas@sage-au.org.au*.

- President:** Anthony Vialle  
Anthony.Vialle@member.sage-au.org.au
- Secretary:** Geoffrey Day  
Geoffrey.Day@member.sage-au.org.au



## NSW Chapter

The NSW group current meets on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30pm at

Wesley Centre  
200 Pitt Street, Sydney

Meetings are also held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm at

University of Wollongong  
Building 41 Room 104  
(New Science Building)  
Wollongong

The group mailing list is *sage-nsw@sage-au.org.au*.

- President:** Phil Herring  
Phil.Herring@member.sage-au.org.au
- Treasurer:** Donna Ashelford  
Donna.Ashelford@member.sage-au.org.au
- Secretary:** Russell Noble  
Russell.Noble@member.sage-au.org.au
- Syd. Organiser:** Paul Colquhoun  
Paul.Colquhoun@member.sage-au.org.au
- Committee:** Francis Liu  
Francis.Liu@member.sage-au.org.au  
Ian Crakanthorp  
Ian.Crakanthorp@member.sage-au.org.au



## Western Australian Chapter

The Western Australia group meets regularly on the first Tuesday of every month (except January) at 6:00pm at

Seminar Room G3  
Alexander Library  
Cultural Centre, Northbridge

The group mailing list is *sage-wa@sage-au.org.au*.

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These, and additional details regarding SAGE-AU Regional Groups, can be found at <http://www.sage-au.org.au/cgi-bin/groups/index>