

# Jason McIntosh

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## SUMMARY

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I am a technical writer and software engineer based in New York, with decades of experience across both of these complementary disciplines. Professional history includes documentation leadership at Google, software engineering at Harvard Medical School and O'Reilly Media, freelance consulting for businesses and cultural institutions, and the co-founding of two nonprofit organizations.

## TECHNICAL WRITING & DOCUMENTATION

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### Senior Technical Writer, Google

June 2021 – July 2024

- I led teams of writers to create and maintain the documentation of Google Cloud database products, including Spanner and AlloyDB.
- I worked with project teams and product stakeholders to plan and prioritize documentation projects, with a focus on covering frequent launches of new features.
- I steered rapid documentation-coverage projects for the launch of several products in the AlloyDB family, including AlloyDB Omni and AlloyDB AI.

### Freelance Technical Writer

October 2001 – Present

- I conceive, pitch, and write freelance articles for various technology publications. Recent work includes articles on Linux gaming and system administration for *Linux Magazine* (2025) and a technical deep-dive on Memcached for *LWN.net* (2025). See <https://jmac.org/writing> for a full list.
- I created improvements to the Perl programming language's official documentation, including a style guide, funded by grants from The Perl Foundation.
- I obtained a grant from Google to hire and manage a communications specialist to perform a content audit and gap analysis on Perl's documentation.
- Earlier work includes two books co-authored for O'Reilly Media: *Perl and XML* (2001) and *Mac OS X in a Nutshell* (2002).

## SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

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### Independent Developer, BumpySkies.com

December 2016 – Present

- BumpySkies.com is a web application I created and continue to maintain, currently serving approximately 10,000 monthly active users. It predicts and maps turbulence expected during commercial air flights over the continental United States.
- The application integrates data from NOAA aviation weather services with geographic and flight-path information to produce user-friendly turbulence forecasts.
- I resumed active development in late 2025, modernizing the codebase with contemporary tools and AI-assisted development practices.
- I conduct user research through surveys to guide development priorities, and maintain a newsletter to share updates with BumpySkies users.

## **Software Consultant, self-employed**

October 2006 – January 2021

- I provided technological consultation and leadership to a number of companies and nonprofits. Notable projects included:
  - A reservation system, with both customer-facing and point-of-sale components, for Bay State Cruise Company in Boston.
  - Web-based cataloguing and search tools for the Maine Memory Network, a service of the Maine Historical Society.
  - The web-based application that runs the Interactive Fiction Competition, an annual festival of digital art.

## **Senior Bioinformatics Programmer, Harvard Medical School**

2002 – 2005

- I led development of tools for viewing and analyzing results from high-throughput screening experiments at the Institute of Chemistry and Cell Biology (ICCB), measuring cellular response to small-molecule compounds.

## **Tools Programmer, O'Reilly Media**

2000 – 2001

- I led development of “FoX”, a suite of internal software tools to migrate book source files from a legacy proprietary format to DocBook XML.

## **NONPROFIT & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

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### **President, Interactive Fiction Technology Foundation (IFTF)**

March 2016 – March 2023

- I co-founded a charitable 501(c)(3) non-profit digital arts organization (<https://iftechfoundation.org>).
- I oversaw committees, programs, and organizational growth, and led programs focused on accessibility and creative competition within the interactive fiction community.
- I managed IFTF's first leadership transition, including recruiting and onboarding a successor.

### **President, Five Borough Fedi Project (5BFP)**

February 2024 – Present

- I co-founded a charitable 501(c)(3) non-profit civic organization (<https://5bfp.org>). It operates Masto.NYC, a free public Mastodon server for residents and businesses of New York City.

## **EDUCATION**

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### **BA, English and Journalism, University of Maine**

- Presidential scholar
- Maine Press Association scholar

## **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

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- **Expertise:** Technical writing and editing, project management, team leadership, Linux, Perl, HTML, Git, Markdown
- **Competence:** Python, JavaScript/Node.js, Kubernetes
- **Other interests:** Game studies, audiobook production, electronic music, the open web