

David Crossley at Apache Software Foundation



photo of DC

1. Background

I am a byte over 40 years old and have zero children. I share life with my partner, a few chooks [1], and a vegetable garden in [Goulburn](#) (between Sydney and Canberra) in New South Wales, Australia.

My career started as a cadastral land surveyor (involved with the positional and legal determination of land boundaries). In my early days of university i discovered that i had an affinity with computing. I satisfied that urge with programmable HP calculators to assist the surveying calculations. As soon as the Mac came out i was converted - brilliant for a small business.

After ten years of surveying i decided that it was not me, and did further education in computing. I worked in government for a while doing data management and UNIX systems work in the field of environmental and geographic information. I adopted Perl as my programming language, and soon discovered the wonders of SGML for document management. A few years working in government was all that i could manage.

2. Work

[IndexGeo Pty Ltd](#) is my business, specialising in document management services for geospatial metadata and network services to ensure search system configuration and reliability. Essentially this is done using XML document validation services and robots to interrogate Z39.50 (ISO 23950) search systems. Linux is our platform.

3. Apache projects

I discovered [Apache Cocoon](#) in late 2000. This was my first foray into open source communities. I started by sending a few patches for documentation as i read it, then commenced addition of the wonderful [Catalog Entity Resolver](#) to the Cocoon framework (many thanks again to Norm Walsh). After a little while i was voted to be a committer in October 2001.

As soon as i heard that the [Apache Forrest](#) project was starting, i joined the forrest-dev list (early 2002) and became a committer soon after.

With both projects i encourage and help to do documentation. I understand just a little Java - with Cocoon that is enough, as there is plenty to be done with XML.

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See the location of those Australian ASF committers who have added themself to the [map](#).

4. About this web page

Yes, of course this web page was built using the excellent Apache Forrest. Here is a concise overview showing [how i did it](#).

5. Inspiration

- The writings, philosophy, and software of Joshua Nathaniel Pritikin. See [aleader](#) and "The Mechanism of Competition".
- The XML software and computing concepts of [James Clark](#) and [David Megginson](#).

6. Footnotes

1. A "chook" is slang for chicken. There is another meaning: "[derogatory] an older woman" ... i had better clarify that i live alone with my wife.