

Tony Smith, Consultant

MSc Melbourne Science-Technology-Society, BSc Melbourne Computing Maths Stats

Computing/Information Technology

Professional career as mainframe systems analyst and programmer commencing 1965 at ACI. Subsequently at Bureau of Meteorology and a broad range of shorter term, mostly contracted, assignments.

Developed for early microcomputers from the late 1970s and early online information services (precursors of the Internet) from the early 1980s. Technical writer for Australian Micro Computerworld and Australian Macworld.

Organiser of and presenter at early Australian conferences relating to networking, Apple Macintosh and the Internet. Participant in international conferences on human interface, collaborative systems and adjacent fields.

Current active working knowledge of open systems server technologies and Apple Macintosh. Developer of TransForum software and ongoing design and development of mainly Web back end systems for mostly publishing oriented clients.

Complex Systems*

Developed Pattern Breeder cellular automata software which was featured in Scientific American in 1986. Continued independent research on cellular automata and studied related approaches such as general evolution and cybernetics.

PICA (see below) distributed Mathematica from Wolfram Research and other technical products because of Smith's technical expertise.

Continued application of mathematics and statistics to practical problems and experimentally. Maintains broad general knowledge of the sciences.

Resumed work in 2002 on a cluster of old and new complex systems research projects, selected results and interpretations from which are currently presented on two independent research web sites: <http://www.twistet.com/> and <http://www.meme.com.au>

Publishing/Media Technologies

Pioneered user of Adobe PostScript, the technology underpinning desktop publishing. Contributed final chapter of Roth, ed. Real World PostScript (1988).

Having already had long experience in newsletter publishing and some years in professional magazine publishing, became involved with the first software to bring true typesetting to the Apple LaserWriter, JustText, a flag bearer of the desktop publishing revolution.

Founded in 1986, and headed through 1990, desktop publishing technology distributor PICA Pty Ltd, dealing with numerous international suppliers, most notably Adobe, Quark and then brand name image scanner and large screen manufacturers, local dealers and cutting edge clients. PICA employed over 20 persons at its peak and its distribution business continues viably as Pica Software.

Continuing involvement with multimedia technologists and with information technologies for the print publishing industry.

Technology Industry Policy

Computing media work and running a small business during the 1980s provided extensive exposure to the roller coaster of government technology industry policy on issues from the climate for venture capital to the software copyright regime.

Produced major magazine supplements about and organised a conference of the fledgling Australian personal computer industry in the early 1980s. This led to an involvement in ensuring early flagship local manufacturer Microbee's legacy of before-their-time (Unix) technologies were acquired and further developed by two other Australian entrepreneurial groups in turn.

Education Technology Policy

Contracted during the 1990s to produce a series of consultancy reports on education technology policy which turned out to focus heavily on the potentials of multi media, networked computers and ultimately the Internet in the delivery of education.

"Modes of Delivery" included video conferencing, satellite and the largely undifferentiated promise of "broadband".

Involved through the mid '80s with a group promoting wider access to computer skills, including one training program which has 100% success getting unemployed people into computer work.

Taught secondary mathematics for a period in the early 1970s while completing undergraduate studies.

Community Sporting Administration

Retired in 1997 from many years of mostly voluntary work in local sporting administration, especially for the North West Cricket Association and the Strathmore Sports Club.

Developed new technologies for scheduling and grading sporting competitions.

Played cricket for 20 years, former recreational SCUBA diver, nowadays mostly a walker on metropolitan trails and in the Otways.

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*"Complex/Intelligent/Systems" was belatedly recognised as a priority area by the Australian Research Council in 2003 (http://www.arc.gov.au/grant_programs/centre_excellence.htm). In the same time frame the publication of Stephen Wolfram's best selling A New Kind of Science refocused international interest in complex systems (<http://www.wolframscience.com/>).