Nathan Torkington
124 Ti Point Rd
Leigh, New Zealand
nathan@torkington.com

"I helped build the early Web, spent 10 years in the US working
with startups, open source, and the Web. In New Zealand since
2005, I divide my time between my own events, advising
startups and corporates, and my own startups."

EDUCATION

B. Sc., Computer Science, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, 1993.

PRESENT

Host: Kiwi Foo Camp. Identify and attract important and interesting people from technology, politics, business, art, science, and media to network and identify opportunities for future collaboration and success.

Founder: He Hononga Software, Ltd, my vehicle for consulting around startups, open source, web strategy, and innovation. Have worked with Telecom, Otago University, and Internet New Zealand among other organizations.

Independent Director: Silverstripe New Zealand, an open source CMS software company based in Wellington.
Councillor: Internet New Zealand, the charitable non-profit that administers the New Zealand DNS.
Advisor: Spotlight Reporting, a Wellington-based startup providing graphical dashboards of company financial and performance information.
Advisor: PHP Fog, a San Francisco-based startup providing scalable hosting of PHP applications in the cloud.
Advisor: Opscode, a Seattle-based startup providing tools for managing cloud deployment.

Technology Trend Analyst: O'Reilly Media, a California-based media company specializing in publishing, conferences, and online services. Identify technology trends, trend-makers, early signs, and possible business opportunities. Outputs included: blogging on O'Reilly Radar, writing articles for Release 2.0, reviewing research reports.

PAST

May 1998 – August 2007: **Conference Chair, O'Reilly Media**.
Scouted and scheduled program of expert speakers, assisted marketing, wrote software, and was the master of ceremonies for: The Perl Conference (1998-2006), expanding scope from Perl to all of open source including business and licensing (1999-2006); Open Source Bioinformatics Conference (2001-2002), including hosting a quiz show; Where 2.0 (2005-2006), the first conference to showcase Google Maps; Emerging Telephony (2005) on VoIP-enabled applications. Every conference involves finding themes based around early-stage trends observed in the field ("expansion of open source lessons to other areas but software"), building a program aligned with those themes (speakers, session topics, companies), and clearly articulating not just the unique benefits of the conference but the importance of the theme. Served on the Program Committee for Mac OS X Con 2003 and Emerging Technology Conference 2006.

November 2005 – present: **Technology Trend Analyst and Communicator, O'Reilly Media**.
Reflect outward via the O'Reilly Radar blog the weak technology trends that Tim O'Reilly and his kitchen cabinet have noticed. Covered Google Maps mashups during the early stages of the phenomenon, and the Internet mapping scene from business models to licensing trends to open source offerings.

November 2000 - August 2004: **Editor, O'Reilly Media**.
Identified book topics, found and signed authors, shaped book content (rewriting and writing where necessary), wrote marketing copy for: Perl Graphics Programming, Perl and LWP, Programming PHP, Essential Blogging, Migrating to PHP 5, Learning PHP, Apache Security Handbook, Network Security Testing. Wrote tools to assist editors in understanding book market, including a sales data mart view that became the company touchstone, and which was only acknowledged and adopted by centralized IT four years after it was first released. Attended conferences to find speakers.

1999: Program Committee, **USENIX FreeNix Track**.
Helped build and shape the program of the first free software track at a USENIX conference.

March 1998 - November 2000: **Corporate Trainer, Tom Christiansen Perl Consulting**.
Developed, extended, and taught classes to corporate programmers with differing skill levels. Classes taught: Beginning Perl, Intermediate Perl, Advanced Perl, Perl Web with CGI, mod_perl. Each class included examples and exercises, developed by the instructor. Clients included HP, Hertz, Qualcomm, and Nortel.

February 1996 - March 1998: **System Administrator and Web Designer, Front Range Internet, Inc.**
Administered FreeBSD login, database, and web servers. Wrote complex multi-host log processing software used five years after I left. Automated small and large tasks in Bourne Shell scripts and Perl. Architected, designed, and implemented large CGI scripts for clients, such as Loveland Herald-Tribune's online presence.

June 1994 - August 1995: **Web Designer, NetLink Inc.**
Founding employee of university web and bandwidth provider, NetLink. Sold, designed, and assisted with implementation of web sites for NetLink clients. Assisted management understand the Internet provider business.

January 1993 - June 1994: **Campus-Wide Information Systems Adminstrator, Victoria University of Wellington.**
Designed and implemented the University's web site, with content for prospective students, students, and faculty. Liaised with and educated faculty on the Web and how to contribute content. Worked with Harry Orsman, editor of Oxford Dictionary of New Zealand English, to put the OED 2ed on the web for internal campus use, designing and implementing the Perl CGI programs necessary for this. Ran local New Zealand mirrors of popular packages.

BOOKS

Torkington, Nathan and Christiansen, Tom. Perl Cookbook 2ed. O'Reilly & Associates, 2002.

Lerdorf, Rasmus. Programming PHP 1ed. O'Reilly & Associates, 2001. (Uncredited coauthor)

Torkington, Nathan and Christiansen, Tom. Perl Cookbook, O'Reilly & Associates, 2002.

Torkington, Nathan (editor). Proceedings of the Fifth Perl Conference, O'Reilly & Associates, 2001.