

Q&A for Possible Contributors, Volunteers, Interns or Employees of TWiT or The Tech Guy Radio Show

First of all, thank you.

Thank you for your interest in increasing your involvement in the TWiT and Tech Guy communities. As Leo often says, he couldn't do what he does without the worldwide community of enthusiastic individuals who share their knowledge and experience. Occasionally, there are openings for greater participation in the community. So, while almost all of these roles are unpaid (but some are paid), new projects do come up from time to time and because of the cooperative effort that is TWiT and The Tech Guy radio show. We're creating a list of people who have shown greater interest so that we can have a go-to person in mind in case a particular task needs to be done quickly.

Thanks!

- Dane Golden, TWiT producer

What roles might there be?

Roles in the TWiT/Tech Guy communities can include chat room moderator, show note writer, web/blog UI design, infrastructure and systems, audio recording and editing, video recording and editing, blogger/writer/editor, forum moderator, general intern, secretarial, and more.

Directions

Here's a battery of questions to help us figure out where you'd best fit in the event we'll need your help. Forgive the length, but your answers are helpful to us. It's unlikely that you'll have a response to every question here, so please just respond to the questions that apply to you. Please also:

- 1) Delete any questions/sections that don't apply to you.
- 2) Mark your responses with *a colored, bold, italic font*.
- 3) Email this back

If we find a need for your skills and interests, you can be sure we'll contact you. Thanks!

Name: *Ludwik Trammer*

Email: *ludwik@trammer.pl*

Which role or roles do you think you'd best be suited for? Which are you most interested in?

I see myself as a general intern. Guy who can make rapid changes to Twit's existing web infrastructure, as they are needed (from small fixes to contributing features for Laconica software) or develop and deploy new tools. In the meantime I can help with producing the show (editing, publishing, etc.) and Twit Cottage computer needs (software configuration, ...).

I love doing exciting stuff like programming, but I can still enjoy mixing that with more traditional "boring" intern responsibilities.

Who do you follow? Please list URLs.

Which podcasts do you listen to regularly?

Twit Network:

Daily Giz Wiz

FLÖSS Weekly

The Tech Guy

MacBreak Weekly

Munchcast

net@nite

Security Now!

This Week in Tech

Other:

This American Life - <http://www.thislife.org>

Grammar Girl - <http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com>

BBC Film Reviews - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/fiveline/entertainment/kermode.shtml>

The Onion Video Podcast - <http://www.theonion.com/content/video/>

PRI Here and Now - <http://www.here-now.org>

TED Talks Video Podcast - <http://www.ted.com>

WNYC's Radio Lab - <http://www.wnyc.org/shows/radiolab>

Which blogs, microblogs, websites, newspapers and magazines do you read?

I'm a digg.com junkie, and that's by far my main source of tech news - <http://digg.com/users/ludwik>

Twitter.com (<http://www.twitter.com/ludwiktrammer>) and TwitArmy (<http://army.twit.tv/ludwik>)

Blogs:

Google Blogoscoped (also a guest writer and active community member) - <http://blogoscoped.com/>

A List Apart - <http://www.alistapart.com/>

Css3.info - <http://feeds.css3.info>

Ideas for Teaching Computer Technology to Kids - <http://teachcomputers.wordpress.com>

Mark Shuttleworth's (Ubuntu) blog - <http://www.markshuttleworth.com>

Matt Cutts's (Google) blog - <http://www.matcutts.com>

Penguin.SWF (Adobe) - <http://blogs.adobe.com/penguin.swf>

Various official Google blogs (main Google blog, Gmail blog, Google Talk blog, Google Webmaster Central blog)

Also various Polish sources, mainly political.

Education, research and self-teaching

Have you read any computer/tech books lately? Which ones?

I don't read books that are supposed to teach me technologies for that I use official manuals and other internet sources. I do, however, read books about ideas related to tech: Eric Raymond's "The Cathedral & The Bazaar", Linus Torvald's "Just for Fun", Steve Wozniak's "iWoz", Richard Stallman's "Free as in Freedom", etc

Which websites do you rely on for tech-related info?

Digg.com, Ubuntuforums.org for Ubuntu related stuff, official documentations for various programming languages and programs, but mostly I do A LOT of Googling for particular problems.

Where do you hang out online? Please list your URLs.

Are you active on any tech-related message boards or chat rooms? Which ones?

Google Blogoscoped Forums (www.blogoscoped.com). In the past I was also on of the top contributing members on Mozilla PL forums (www.mozilla.org/forum), Kadu forums (IM client for Linux - www.kadu.net) and Konnekt (IM client for Windows - www.konnekt.info)

Do you have a blog? Please point us to it.

I had a blog for about three years at <http://ludwik.jogger.pl> (jogger.pl is a blogging community based on XMPP/Jabber), but I don't keep it up to date anymore.

Do you use sites like Flickr, Facebook, Twitter, Pownce, Digg, Del.icio.us, YouTube, Ustream.tv, Stickam, Skype or others? Please send us your links.

Digg - <http://digg.com/users/ludwik>

TwitArmy: <http://army.twit.tv/ludwik>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ludwiktrammer>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=573873565>

Google Picasa: <http://picasaweb.google.com/ludwik> (unfortunately almost all my albums are hidden)

I also have Stickam, YouTube, del.icio.us and Skype accounts, but I don't contribute there very much.

Platforms

Which OS do you primarily use? Which ones are you familiar with?

I'm familiar with Mac OS X, Linux and Windows. My primary systems are Mac OS X Leopard and Linux Ubuntu.

I use Mac OS on my personal laptop, but I teach Ubuntu and support a network of Ubuntu based desktop machines. Before switching to Mac OS, for about 6 years I used various Linux distributions as a primary system on my personal computer.

Which browser(s) do you prefer?

Mozilla Firefox

What is the make and model of your cell phone?

Sony Ericsson K510i. Not a smartphone. I also own an iPod touch.

Are you a gamer? Which console? Which games?

No. I'm not.

Design media skills

Do you have a background in Web design, audio editing, video editing, etc.? If you're good with Final Cut, Adobe Audition, Photoshop, Wordpress, Drupal, iTunes, Podcasting, Flash, CSS, HTML or related programs or skills, please tell us how good you are at each on a scale of 1-10.

(X)HTML, CSS, PHP 9/10 (I'm not good at graphic designs, though. I'm a coder)

JavaScript, Wordpress 7/10

I don't have editing experience (except for Audacity, but I guess that doesn't really count), but I'm really good at learning new software.

Hardware/sys admin skills

Do you have experience with hardware and/or as a sys admin? Please describe your experience and interests.

I'm an administrator of a network of about 30 computers, two network printers and one network scanner. I configured the Linux server from scratch. It's based on Ubuntu server edition and performs the following functions: central repository of user accounts, internet gateway, router, firewall, and a space for public file sharing.

User accounts are fully centralized within the network using NIS for verifying user credentials, and NFS for importing the profiles. User credentials are imported from a web-based system using custom software. Squid is used for transparent proxy and www cache. There is ftp, ssh, nfs and smb access enabled inside the network, and ssh behind knock demon outside.

It's my first big network, and I successfully support it for the last three years.

I'm the person who decides which hardware to buy in my company, but I'm much more comfortable as a software guy.

Organizational and writing skills

What software do you use? Word, Excel, Quicken, or Google Docs? Please rank your ability on each on a scale from one to 10.

I use both OpenOffice.org and Google Docs (for both word processing and spreadsheets).

Google Docs 9.5/10

OpenOffice.org 8/10

MS Office - 7/10

How good are your writing skills? Have you ever taken a journalism class or worked for a newspaper, magazine or blog? Do you know the AP Style Guide? Are there any links to your articles online.

My writing skills in Polish are excellent. I was the Editor In Chief of an Independent School News Site for about 5 years (during part of that time we also published a paper), a blogger for about 3 years and I did an internship in a political department of the biggest Polish daily newspaper. My English writing skills are improving, but are still far from ideal.