

Here are some facts for you

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AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL FACTS

At the risk of inundating you with my name—this makes for six instances between the home and about pages of the site—the first fact I would like to mention is that the author of all the content on this site is Steven Robertson. Facts two and three are that I have some opinions on technical matters and that I share them on this site, respectively. These facts together are important, as opinions may provoke a strong emotional reaction, and when combined the facts will enable you to deliver a strongly-worded commendation or rebuttal to my face with slightly more confidence than if you did not know who I was or if I was aware that my inflammatory opinions were exposed for the world to see, should we ever meet at a party.

Fact four: we are unlikely to meet at a party. This is a result of facts five, wherein I am currently living in Orlando, and six, whereby Orlando has less of the sort of party you would go to chat with fellow hackers and more the sort of party where you'd try aggressively to forget you're currently in Florida. Fact seven is that I don't really care for Florida.

Fact eight: I am remarkably fond of footnotes¹.

SITE-RELATED FACTS (NOT ENUMERATED)

I write technical articles on this site, usually related to whatever I'm currently working on. The articles tend to be longer, and to get checked in to version control (and thus to the site) far before they're ready to "publish" by pushing to the index and RSS feed. My current interests include massively parallel algorithms, video coding, open consumer electronics, web design, music, and pedagogy—a pretty typical combination—and the site's content has thus far tracked that set pretty closely.

The site is rendered as static HTML files, using [docutils](#) to render [ReStructuredText](#) documents, [BeautifulSoup](#) to do some reprocessing, [itex2MML](#) to render [MathML](#) for those documents which need it, [Pygments](#) for code boxes, and [Mako](#) templates to bring it all together. Comments are handled off-site by [Disqus](#), and fonts are provided by [Typekit](#). This is all running on a VPS provided by [PRGMR](#), although it could of course

¹If you're viewing them on the site, they're technically margin notes (fact 8A).

work just as well on a shared hosting solution if it was regenerated at my workstation instead of on the server.

The source for each article, often including code I've written to perform benchmarks or demonstrate ideas, is all under [Mercurial](#) version control, as well as the code and templates; in fact, the site is itself the actual Mercurial repository, regenerated in-place by a commit hook. I've written a bit about [why I believe this is the right approach](#), but in short all you need to know is that you can get the entire history of the site (since moving to the Mercurial backend, anyway) by simply doing:

```
$ hg clone http://strobe.cc strobe_cc
```

I write articles very slowly, although I'm working on that, and as a result often make a relatively high number of edits to articles during the writing process. The `Published` docinfo variable is set to display articles in the feed and on the site index, but the pages are visible as soon as they are uploaded regardless of whether they've been published, and will probably keep being edited for some time thereafter as I obsessively tweak sentences that annoy me. Rather than inundate subscribers to the [RSS feed](#) with tiny updates, or cut them off entirely from significant updates when they happen, the feed has an out-of-band update mechanism (using the `Updated` variable in the docinfo section of each document's ReStructured-Text source).

The HTML and CSS aims to be as standards-compliant as possible, although I've mostly been testing in Firefox 3.6 on Linux. I also occasionally use MathML in my articles, which WebKit-based browsers don't touch, but I might write a fallback system some time.