

Acknowledgments

FIRST AND FOREMOST I would like to thank my wife, Kristen, for patience and forbearance above and beyond reasonable limits. I would also like to thank our horse, Rhiannon, for giving her something to do while I worked. My parents, Jack and Rosemary, supported me in numerous ways throughout the writing of the book. In particular I would like to thank my father for the prescient advice he often gave me, “Write if you get work.” All the members of my and Kristen’s family gave me encouragement, for which I am grateful.

I must thank Jesse Erlbaum, who served as the chief technical editor for this book. However, his contributions to my life began years ago. When I came to work for Jesse at Vanguard Media in 1999, I knew plenty about coding but very little about being a programmer. Jesse took me under his wing and taught me how to be a professional, how to value quality in my work, and how to demand it from others. Under his direction I published my first CPAN module—HTML::Template—which is based on his work. Jesse’s friendship, humor, and advice have been indispensable to me; that he helped me complete this book is but the latest in a long series of kindnesses.

Neil Watkiss joined our team as a technical editor during the crucial final weeks. Under extreme pressure he delivered admirably. Without his help the book might never have been completed.

The people I worked with at Apress did a great job on the book and kept me motivated throughout the project. Jason, Grace, Alexa, Ami, Erin, Stephanie, Doris, Susan, Kari—thanks!

My friends put up with my haggard face on many occasions during the writing of this book. They even managed to seem interested when I would describe it at length and in mind-numbing detail. Chris, Sean, Catherine, Mia, Fritz, Nat, Jarett, Carson, Danielle, Fran, Agneta—thank you all. I plan to become human again soon and look forward to seeing you all more often.

My coworkers at About.com were often helpful and always patient when I couldn’t keep the stress from showing. Len, Peter, Rudy, Matt, Adam, Lou, Rachel, Nathan, Tim—thank you.

I would like to thank Larry Wall for giving us both Perl and the Perl community. Without his work, I’m certain the programming world would be a much less interesting place. I must also thank Jarkko Hietaniemi and Andreas J. Köenig for giving the Perl community CPAN and also for patiently answering my questions about its history. I’d also like to thank the many developers who contribute to CPAN and maintain Perl. In particular, the following people answered my questions and provided me with invaluable insight into the minds behind Perl: Elaine Ashton,

Acknowledgments

Damian Conway, Jochen Wiedmann, Raphael Manfredi, Steffen Beyer, James G. Smith, Ken Williams, Mark-Jason Dominus, Michael G. Schwern, Simon Cozens, Barrie Slaymaker, Graham Barr, Lincoln D. Stein, Matt Sergeant, Sean M. Burke, T.J. Mather, and Rich Bowen.

I must thank Brian Ingerson for assisting me in the early development of the book. Scott Guelich, author of *CGI Programming with Perl*, also deserves special mention—his early encouragement was crucial to getting the project off the ground. Finally, I would like to thank Leon Brocard for allowing me to use his CPAN network illustration, a version of which appears in Chapter 1.