

Practical *On-the-Job* Solutions

A+ PC Technician's

Pocket Reference

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A+ PC Technician's Pocket Reference

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To Mom and Dad, who never raised an eyebrow
when I paused my engineering studies
to get that English degree.

—*Jim*

About the Authors

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And finally, thanks to Brian Schwarz, my co-author. It was fun!

INTRODUCTION

In keeping with the idea of a pocket reference book, this introduction will be “pocket-sized.”

The book you’re holding in your hands serves many purposes. One that comes to mind is that it provides a nice summary and quick study for those wishing to pursue the A+ exam that CompTIA administers. Another is that it provides a quick review of basic technologies and terminology for those of us who have (possibly) forgotten more than we’re willing to admit. It happens.

The book is by no means comprehensive. There is simply no possible way to include every technology related to PC hardware and software and keep the book from approaching encyclopedia-sized volumes.

It’s a pocket reference; therefore the authors have attempted to cover those topics that they feel are important to the A+ exam. But coverage is also given to day-to-day troubleshooting that A+ technicians and others encounter regularly.

Chapters are short for a reason; we’ve attempted to whittle down the topics to their core. The chapters will give you useful information, but a lot of that information is there to jog your memory.

Most technicians know where to find advanced information, but sometimes all you need are the basics. Most technicians will admit that many times “the” solution is the simplest one. This book gives you those simple solutions.

If you’re planning on taking the A+ exam—good luck! Review the sticky subjects before you head into the testing center, and give this book a quick thumb-through before handing over your study materials.

And if you’ve passed the A+ exam, don’t count on remembering every little bit of information that you’ve

crammed. With the IT industry changing daily (almost hourly), there's simply no way to remember everything. Keep a copy of this book on your desk or in your back pocket. Those of us in this industry know that sooner or later, the simple stuff comes back around to test us.

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