Connect and download files in seconds for greater productivity online.

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Network home or small business computers to maximize broadband power.

Broadband Bible
Desktop Edition

James E. Gaskin

Companion Web site offers links to additional information on broadband, home and small business networking, and more.
Broadband Bible

Desktop Edition
About the Author

In 1985, **James E. Gaskin** decided he’d rather sell computers and networks than try to buy them for his father’s company. So he started selling and installing Novell networks to small- and medium-sized businesses in the Dallas area. By 1988, James was on his own as an independent networking consultant to such clients as the Internal Revenue Service, First Gibraltar Bank, and Solomon Associates.

In 1989, James started contributing to *Unix Today!* magazine, and he continues to cover technology for major technology publications (such as *Network World*) today. His first book, *Integrating Unix and NetWare Networks*, was published by Novell Press in 1993, and he has continued writing books, articles, and jokes about technology and real life ever since.

His 14 (now 15) books include a best-selling series of five NetWare books for Sybex, and others on Internet technology, technology business management, and humor. James presented a series of NetWare and Internet technology tutorials for Networld+InterOp from 1994 through 1997. Media appearances include technology expert commentary for KRLD News Radio, Dallas, TX, and WGBH 89.7, National Public Radio, Boston.

An objective voice for the technology consumer, James writes a weekly column called *Small Business Technology* for *Network World*. He also presents topics such as *The Hilarious Pain of Data Security* to groups under the umbrella of GaskinGuides to Technology. Although unaffiliated with any vendor, James is biased toward cost-effective and intelligent technology products for small- and medium-sized businesses.
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As always, this and everything else is for Wendy, Alex, and Laura.
Preface

Speed kills boredom on the Web. Broadband makes Web sites that were dull yesterday snap and dance today. Now that every person in the United States and Canada has at least one option for broadband service, there’s no reason you can’t enjoy a Web more interactive (and intelligent) than any TV show on the market.

Connecting your home or small business to a broadband service provider costs less today than ever. The tools you need are easily available, often as close as a CompUSA or Target or even Radio Shack. Why waste time waiting on the Web? Why not whip through the Web, grab what you want, and get on with your life?

Nothing in this book is beyond a typical home computer user’s ability to purchase, install, or enjoy. If you have a computer, you can benefit from broadband service. If you have two computers, you benefit twice as much. If you have an office at home that you might want to connect to your business, everything you need is in here.

Jump in. Explore the Internet in ways you couldn’t before. Download videos and music that you never considered in the past because of their file sizes. Finally, turn your computer into something more fun than an automated Solitaire game. Do all this easily, inexpensively, and without needing to cut a hole in your wall for wires or worry about security. Follow the directions in here, and you will connect effortlessly, protect your data in a variety of ways, and stop wondering if your computer was working for you or against you. With broadband access and the information in here, you computer will become your transport to more information and entertainment than ever before.

Who Should Read This Book?

If you have a computer in your home and are curious about broadband, this book will help you. If you have more than one computer at home and need to connect them, this book will save you time, money, and a fair amount of aggravation.

If you have a small office in your home, this book provides the data security information that will protect your most important asset, your information.

If you have a small business, this book will show you the right tools for connecting your computers with network appliances to provide storage, security, and real-time backup support. You will also build a foundation for your business on solid network design principles along with important security considerations that will help today and in the future.