

About Ed Gelbstein

Eduardo Gelbstein has collaborated with UNITAR for several years and was invited to become a Senior Special Fellow of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, UNITAR, in March 2002. He developed with his UNITAR colleagues events on Information Technology for diplomatic communities in New York and Geneva. He is also an author, conference speaker and independent information technology consultant.

From 1993 until February 2002 he was Director of the International Computing Centre (ICC), Geneva, Switzerland in 1993 which provides information technology services to several United Nations organisations. He is particularly proud of having presented the Internet to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in 1995 and being awarded in 1997 the UN21 award by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan.



Most of his 40 years at work with electronic and digital technologies were devoted to the introduction and management of change in complex environments.

Prior to joining the ICC, he was the I.T. Strategy Manager for Network SouthEast, largest business unit of the U.K. railways before privatisation. In this capacity, he advised the U.K. Railway Privatisation Study Group on I.T. matters and was chairman of the Business I.T. Steering Group for the whole of the U.K. railways.

During his years at British Railways he managed the development and introduction of I.T. systems and facilities which included leading projects for an international data network to connect 11 European railways, the nationwide implementation of computer systems for the British Transport Police and, in 1984, the decision to adopt networked personal computers as the standard technical platform for British Rail. He also spent two years providing technology transfer and consultancy services to the railways of Australia and New Zealand.

Prior to the railway, he joined the English Electric Co. in the U.K. to work on the direct digital control of continuous processes. His professional work started in 1962 with the design of electronic instrumentation for the Institute of Physics, University of Buenos Aires and he continued this work at Philips in Eindhoven, The Netherlands.

He graduated from the Faculty of Engineering, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina where he studied electronic engineering, graduating in 1963. He also holds a Master's degree from the Netherlands (1966) and a Ph.D. from the U.K. (1976). He is particularly interested in the mechanisms of how the mind works, the creative process and likes to play the piano.

He can lead one and two day workshops and executive briefings on the management of information security, on effective website design and on information management. He can be contacted at

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