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Michael Gough

Jason Rosenfeld Technical Editor

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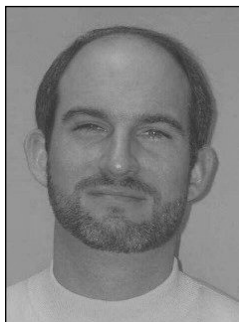
A Word from the Author

Personal videoconferencing is a growing way to communicate over the telephone alone. I first wanted to use personal videoconferencing to communicate with my daughter and found it to be an incredible tool to help communicate with her. Telephone calls that lasted minutes now lasted often over an hour. So I got involved with testing video call solutions to find the best possible one, and I have since tested over 40. I have tested many webcams, hardware solutions, and software solutions—it is my hope that all my testing will help others learn far faster what took me a couple of years to find out. I started www.VideoCallTips.com to provide information so that others would not have to go through as much work as I did, and now I have written this book to help you understand the technology and make a good decision about which solutions to use. As solutions change, I will update www.VideoCallTips.com with feedback I receive so that you can have access to all the latest information.

I hope that you enjoy the book. It's my intention that it helps you understand the world of personal videoconferencing and how you can use the latest in video call technology over the Internet to communicate with your family, friends, and coworkers. After reading this book, you should be ready to explore the many options video calls have to offer, improving your communication experience and making life a little more fun.

—*Michael Gough*

About the Author



Michael Gough is host and webmaster of www.VideoCallTips.com, which was launched in January 2005 and receives more than 81,000 hits per month. He is also the author of *Skype Me! From Single User to Small Enterprise and Beyond* (Syngress Publishing, ISBN, 1-59749-032-6) and webmaster of www.SkypeTips.com, which receives more than 140,000 hits per month. Michael writes articles on personal videoconferencing and related issues and contributes to the Networking Pipeline section of Skype.com. He also explains personal videoconferencing options and instructions to users so that they can practically apply video calls at home and while out of town on business to stay in touch with family and friends. Michael also evaluates products for vendors and posts ratings on his Web sites. He evaluates products used with video calls and provides feedback to the vendors on features and improvements to help drive the direction of video call-related products. Michael is also the host and webmaster for www.InternetVisitation.org, a Web site focused on helping people understand how to make video calls to family and friends after divorce, and maintains ratings of the many video call solutions available. Michael gives presentations on this subject at several conferences around the country to educate attorneys on the use of video calls in divorce—a practice known as virtual visitation, and www.InternetVisitation.org currently receives 100,000 hits per month.

Michael's full-time employment is as a Computer Security Consultant with 18 years' experience in the computer technology field. He works for a Fortune 500 company where he delivers security consulting services to its clients. He also presents for his company at many trade shows and conferences and works with associations and groups, advising agencies like the FBI on Skype security and the Center for Internet Security on wireless security.



Dedication

For my daughter, for without her I would not have known how important video calls could be and how much they helped us stay close. To my friend Jason, I wish you the best and thanks for your help. To all those who helped in this project by testing, thank you!



Technical Editor

Jason Rosenfeld is the Director of Marketing & Technology for DVD Acquisition and Development Group. He has over 10 years of technology, marketing, and business strategy experience at both startups and large corporations.

Upon leaving Bertelsmann in 2001, he developed unique niche marketing strategies that were widely adopted by the entertainment industry in general and the DVD business, in particular. These strategies involved using the Internet to interact with fans and consumers to directly involve potential customers at multiple stages of the product design process. Since 2000, he has used a wide array of video call solutions to bring an incredibly diverse group of contributors, designers, and programmers together, in many cases with extremely limited direct contact.

Jason holds an MBA in Marketing and Supply Chain Management from Rutgers Business School and a BA from Rutgers College. He lives in Morris County, NJ, with his wife, Kimberly. A cancer survivor, he is most interested in how video call technology can be used to improve the lives of the elderly and infirmed by bridging the gap between patient, family, and medical experts.

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