

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: 2026-05-13

Time: 18:45 local (23:45 UTC)

Place: The Brass Monkey

Brass Monkey 55 Little West 12th St



**NYC*BUG
meeting:**

The Design of Unix Shell, by Stephen R. Bourne

Held at

The Backroom of the Brass Monkey

We're looking at having a "fireside chat" with Stephen R. Bourne, covering everything from shell to its design decisions, and the relevance today.

Some relevant reading for the meeting might be Stephen's 1978 piece in The Bell System Technical Journal entitled "UNIX Time-Sharing System: The UNIX Shell."

Steve Bourne is internationally known for his work on the UNIX operating system. During his career he spent 20 years in senior engineering management positions at computer systems and networking companies. These included Cisco Systems, Sun Microsystems, Digital Equipment and Silicon Graphics. Since 2000 he has been Chief Technology Officer at El Dorado Ventures (now Rally Ventures) in Menlo Park, California.

He is past chair of the ACM Queue board, a magazine that he started in 2003 for software practitioners.

Steve spent nine years at Bell Laboratories as a member of the Seventh Edition UNIX team. He designed the UNIX Command Language sh or "Bourne Shell" which is used for scripting in the UNIX programming environment and he wrote the adb debugger tool. His book "The UNIX System" was widely read and published in 1983.

