



STEPHEN E. SLEVINSKI JR.

Specializing in mathematics, I have been working with Valerie Sutton since 2004. Together we worked out a conceptual model for how SignWriting could be encoded for computer use. Valerie Sutton, as the domain expert, laid out the requirements while I reflected back a design based on characters and algorithms. Together we hammered out the specifications for the Modern SignWriting encoding model.

About Stephen E Slevinski Jr

Stephen E. Slevinski is the developer of the open standards for SignWriting Software since 2004 to present, working together with SignWriting inventor Valerie Sutton to create software used by signwriters around the world in all the world's sign languages.

Slevinski's software includes:

[Binary SignWriting](#) (BSW)

[IMWA Convert Package to ISWA](#)

[SignMaker](#) Add signs to SignWriting dictionaries

[SignPuddle Online](#), Read & Write Documents & Dictionaries

[SignPuddle PersonalPuddle](#), SignPuddle Desktop Server

[SignPuddle PocketPuddle](#), SignPuddle Server on a USB Stick

[SignPuddle Servers](#) for Networks

[SignText](#) for creating SignWriting documents

[SignWriting Image Server](#) (SWIS)

[SignWriting MediaWiki Plugin](#) (SWMP) for Wikipedias in SignWriting

[Modern SignWriting Encoding Specification](#)

[ASL Wikipedia Project on Wikimedia Labs](#)

Steve Slevinski is the first in history to program important grammatical elements of the SignWriting script that had never been accomplished before, including writing in vertical columns with lanes, a unique grammar requirement for writing Sign Language Literature properly. In 2009-2012, Slevinski did important work with encoding the [International](#)

[SignWriting Alphabet \(ISWA 2008 & 2010\)](#), first, with his Binary SignWriting (BSW), and later with his new [Modern SignWriting Encoding Specification](#), which is a model for the structure of character encoding in SignWriting. Modern SignWriting is a "Character Encoding Model".

Steve Slevinski's latest triumph, in August 2012, is the successful launch of his SignWriting MediaWiki Plugin, used to post [the first test ASL Wikipedia on a Wikimedia Labs server](#), the forerunner to a future ASL Wikipedia. Without Steve's software, a Wikipedia written in the facial expressions, hand symbols and movement arrows of the SignWriting script would not be possible. The SW MediaWiki Plugin gives this unusual, visual writing system an environment that makes writing and posting articles possible on the web.

History Before 2004

Steve Slevinski graduated from Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania in 1994, with a BS degree in Mathematics, thereafter working for the New York State Education Department in 1994 and 1995 as a Senior Computer Programmer / Analyst.

In 1996 Slevinski started with Danet Inc; a Telecommunications Integrator and a US subsidiary of Danet GmbH out of Germany. From 1996 till 1998, he worked in the Technical Services business unit in a Windows, Unix, and Oracle environment. Steve performed manual and automated testing including module testing, integration testing, system testing, and acceptance testing, working closely with customers and programmers to help debug problems encountered in production environments. Steve created custom applications to aid in his role in the technical services business unit.

1999-2002, Steve was promoted to a systems engineer working on the internal systems. He was responsible for improving the overall quality of the project administration and management information systems, working closely with managers, project managers, accounting, human resources, sales, and executives to enhance and integrate the diverse information technology used within the company.

In 2003, Steve discovered SignWriting on the internet and attempted to start a non-profit organization called Pittsburgh United for Deaf Literacy (PUDL). Steve developed his own PUDL software for SignWriting, feeling strongly that literacy is important for everyone and that SignWriting is the key to literacy for Sign Language users.

In 2004, Valerie Sutton learned about Slevinski's PUDL software for SignWriting, which later became known as "SignPuddle" Software, and invited him to work as a consultant for the Center for Sutton Movement Writing. That was the beginning of the Sutton-Slevinski collaboration. Steve Slevinski and Valerie Sutton work together daily, providing tech support to SignWriting software users, and expanding current software.

History 2008-2009

In 2008, Steve started pushing for more stable and open standards. Val and Steve worked closely to finalize the [ISWA 2008](#), subsequently released under the Open Font License. The [SignWriting Image Server](#) beta was released under the GPL. The

foundational ideas of Binary SignWriting were being developed.

History 2010-2012

Steve replaced his work on Binary SignWriting with his his new [Modern SignWriting Encoding Specification](#), which is a model for the structure of character encoding in SignWriting. Modern SignWriting is a "Character Encoding Model". This lead to the successful launch of his SignWriting MediaWiki Plugin, used to post [the first test ASL Wikipedia on a Wikimedia Labs server](#), the forerunner to a future ASL Wikipedia.