

mitchbarrie.net

About This Site

April 2026

Introduction

mitchbarrie.net is a personal vanity website belonging to me, Mitch Barrie, of Reno, Nevada. It started life as a simple splash page with links to (mostly unused) social media accounts, plus a CV page and a tree of open directories hosting PDFs of articles and documents. Since late 2024 it has been progressively expanded, with coding done collaboratively with Claude (Anthropic's AI assistant).

The site is intentionally simple. It is not a commercial property and makes no attempt to impress anyone. What it does offer is a collection of potentially useful (and sometimes whimsical) text-manipulation tools, a library of publicly shared ~~copyright-violations~~ articles, and random quote generators from classic films.

Design and Navigation

The site presents a clean, modern design featuring the Noto Sans typeface, with a consistent color scheme and layout across all pages, compatible with desktop and mobile browsers.

Navigation is built around an open directory browsing system. Rather than maintaining a conventional network of linked pages, the site uses a PHP¹ script that reads each directory and presents its contents as a formatted listing. Any new tool or document can be dropped into the appropriate directory and it will appear in the listing automatically, with no need to edit any parent page.

Each directory can optionally contain a plain-text README file. When present, its contents are displayed at the top of the directory listing as an explanation of what the directory contains. Nifty.

Site Structure

The site is divided into five main areas accessible from the home page:

- The home page itself, with contact information and social media links;
- A CV page, in case anyone wants to hire me for anything;
- tools/, a collection of text-manipulation tools and utilities;
- files/, an open directory tree of publicly shared documents; and
- quotes/, random quote generators from classic films.

¹ Hey hey, my my, PHP will never die.

Home Page

URL: <https://mitchbarrie.net/>

The home page displays a randomly selected header photograph on each load, with a mouseover caption identifying the image. Below the header are my name, location and e-mail address, followed by links to social media accounts and to the other sections of the site.

CV

URL: <https://mitchbarrie.net/cv/>

The CV page is my *comprehensive* professional history in a clean, readable format, dynamically generated with every page load from a JSON listing. At the bottom of the page are links to download the CV in PDF, Markdown and plain text formats.

Tools

URL: <https://mitchbarrie.net/tools/>

The tools section is the most distinctive part of the site. Each tool lives in its own subdirectory and shares a common visual style. Tools fall into several categories: text manipulation, password generation, GPS track processing and text randomizing.

Text manipulation and conversions

I have gotten rather addicted to the text manipulation features of the *Notepad++* text editor, and these online tools provide a few of those capabilities in a handy web interface. I actually use some of them, like *Mitch's Awesome Filename Maker*, multiple times a day.

The Rot-13 Converter is a holdover from the days of Usenet. Rot-13 has always fascinated me, and I am sad that few people remember it anymore and fewer find reasons to use it.

GPS tools

The GPS related tools include *Mitch's Awesome GPS Track Converter*, which lets you covert GPS files to and from different standard GPS formats; and *Mitch's Awesome GPS Mapper*, so those GPS tracks can be mapped on a PNG map you can download.

Randomizers

Randomizing text can be fun, and this is the concept behind the Name and Snake Oil Generators, as well as tools for generating weak and strong passwords.

Files

URL: <https://mitchbarrie.net/files/>

The files section is a tree of open directories hosting publicly accessible documents. It is organized by topic and most subdirectories contain a short README explaining what is there. Some of the files in this tree have maintained the same URL for over a decade.

Subdirectories include:

- files/hiking/, hiking-related files including a library of GPS tracks;
- files/img/, bitmap images;
- files/linux/, desktop wallpapers maintained for various Linux systems;
- files/projects/, digital files from side projects;
- files/stats_and_articles/, the main document library, a collection of PDFs covering topics including history, politics and media, science and medicine and other subjects; and
- files/colophon/, where this file is located!

Additional subdirectories are added from time to time, cuz it's so easy.

Quotes

URL: <https://mitchbarrie.net/quotes/>

The quotes section hosts small scripts that display randomly selected lines from classic films. Each film has its own subdirectory. The open directory navigation system means that adding a new film is simply a matter of creating a new subdirectory with the appropriate files.

As of this writing, the only movies represented here are the 1998 Coen Brothers film *The Big Lebowski*; and Stanley Kubrick's *Dr. Strangelove* from 1964. There will probably be more later.

Technical Notes

The site is hosted on a commercial shared Linux/Apache server. All pages are generated by PHP.² The front end uses a small set of CSS files shared across all pages, ensuring a consistent appearance throughout the site. The Noto Sans typeface is loaded from Google Fonts.

The tools are intentionally simple server-side scripts, with no front-end frameworks or build systems. Where real-time interaction is needed, small AJAX calls to helper scripts are used rather than full page reloads. *Mitch's Strong Password Generator* is the one exception: it generates passwords entirely in the browser using the Web Crypto API, so no password data ever reaches the server.

The open directory browsing system is a PHP script that reads the contents of whichever directory it is placed in and formats them as a table of links with file sizes and modification dates. This single script is shared across the files/, tools/ and quotes/ directory trees.

² My my, hey hey, PHP is here to stay.