

A tribute to

Gene Kan

Gene Kan died in tragic circumstances on Saturday 29 June 2002 at the age of 25.

Gene graduated from the University of California, Berkeley's College of Engineering, in 1997 with degrees in electrical engineering and computer science.

Gene "contributed much to the industry, specifically in the peer-to-peer (P2P) space. He was a bright, witty, articulate spokesperson for Gnutella and the P2P movement. He co-founded Infrasearch (gonesilent.com) to create a new distributed search technology to access more timely information on the Web. Infrasearch was acquired by Sun Microsystems in March of 2001. The Infrasearch team joined the JXTA team and integrated the search technology into Sun's JXTA technology by June of 2001. Several organizations within Sun and external to Sun are exploring the use of the technology including Sun's Enterprise Services and neofonie in Germany. Gene brought new ideas to the organization and stretched our thinking as we continue to explore new distributed computing technology. Gene was a trusted friend and colleague, and we will miss him greatly." – SUN.

Gene Kan was among the first to produce an open source version of Gnutella software (under the GNU General Public License) after Gnutella was released by Justin Frankel and Tom Pepper of Gnullsoft. Gene soon became one of Gnutella's key spokesmen. Previously, Gene was an SGML/XML consultant and kernel network engineer at Check Point Software. In his spare moments, he enjoyed racing his cars, LTLENDN and BIGENDN.

A memorial fund is being set up in Kan's name at UC Berkeley. Donations can be sent to the following address: In memory of Gene Kan; Manager, Gift Stewardship; College of Engineering; University of California, Berkeley; 201 McLaughlin Hall; Berkeley, Calif., 94720-1722. Checks should be made out to "UC Regents" but clearly marked for the Gene Kan fund.