



---

## Michael B. Parks, PE

Owner and Chief Geek, Green Shoe Garage  
Service Disabled Veteran-owned Small Business

---

Mike Parks is a native of Glen Burnie, Maryland. He began his engineering career at the United States Naval Academy as a research assistant in the Department of Weapons and Systems Engineering. He went to on honorably serve on active duty in the United States Navy for nearly ten years before returning to civilian life.



He is the founder of Green Shoe Garage (GSG), a solutions engineering consultancy specializing in product development and embedded electronics. He has over 20 years of experience in designing, building, and testing practical solutions for clients in North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Fortune 500 companies, academic institutions, and small businesses alike have sought Green Shoe Garage's unique insights and expertise. GSG is guided by the following philosophy:

*"We are committed to the Maker and Open Source ethos. We seek to develop and apply new technologies to solve real-world problems. We seek to work alongside clients who share our same "can do" attitude and who also desire to disrupt the status quo. Tackling these types of moon shot projects requires great design because we have learned that a good design can overcome bad project management but the greatest project management in the world can never overcome a poor design. Over the decades we have honed our design process and have come to discover that the best design stands at the intersection of innovation and ingenuity. Where form and function seamlessly follows each other. Where practical sophistication displaces impractical complexity for the benefit of our ultimate master, the end user. We firmly believe in rapid iterative design and thus embrace the counter-intuitive notion that failure is the best teacher and thus is a critical part of the creative process. By failing early and often you get to a better solution faster. That's better for us, better for our clients and better for the end user. In short, our mission is to engineer the best damn solutions for our clients and the world."*

Mike is a member of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, Disabled American Veterans, Open Source Hardware Association and the National Eagle Scout Association. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Maryland. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and a Master of Science in Systems Engineering from the Johns Hopkins University. To round out his nerd credentials he also holds an Extra class amateur radio license (N1HNP). When not sequestered in the workshop or laboratory he loves take in all aspects of geek culture with his greatest design ever, his very talented daughter Hailey.