

Eric Fookes — Executive Biography

Short Bio (100 words)

Eric Fookes is the founder and CEO of Fookes Software Ltd, a Swiss company established in 1996 and headquartered in Charmey, Switzerland. With over 25 years of experience in software development, Eric created Aid4Mail, the world's leading email forensics and eDiscovery solution trusted by half of the Fortune 50, the U.S. Department of Justice, FBI, CIA, and top law firms worldwide. Prior to Aid4Mail, Eric developed NoteTab, an award-winning text editor that won PC Magazine's 1998 Shareware Award. His unique background in Earth Sciences (MSc, University of Geneva) brings a distinctive analytical approach to software development.

Medium Bio (250 words)

Eric Fookes is a Swiss software developer and entrepreneur with a unique background that bridges Earth Sciences and cutting-edge technology. As founder and CEO of Fookes Software Ltd, established in 1996 in Geneva and relocated in 2003 to the picturesque village of Charmey, Switzerland, Eric has led the company to become an international leader in email forensics and eDiscovery solutions.

Eric's journey in software development began in 1989 with the creation of his first commercial product—a DOS program that modeled the effects of sea-level change on sedimentary deposits, which he developed while pursuing his Master of Sciences in Carbonate Sedimentology at the University of Geneva (earned June 1991). This early success demonstrated his ability to solve complex analytical problems through software innovation.

Building on this foundation, Eric created NoteTab in 1996 as a learning project that evolved into a groundbreaking programmable text editor. NoteTab garnered widespread recognition, including PC Magazine's 1998 Shareware Award and the Shareware Industry Awards (SIA) People's Choice Award the same year. The success of NoteTab established Fookes Software's reputation for building reliable, efficient, and user-focused solutions.

In the late 1990s, Eric developed Mailbag Assistant, which evolved into Aid4Mail, a powerful email processing tool that has become the industry standard for email collection, forensic recovery, and conversion. Aid4Mail is now trusted by half of the Fortune 50, the U.S. Department of Justice, FBI, CIA, leading law firms, and professionals in over 100 countries. The software won the European IT & Software Excellence Award for Software Innovation Solution of the Year in 2016 and powers components of major eDiscovery platforms from industry giants.

When not leading his company to new heights, Eric pursues his passion for photography, with his images often featured in magazines and tourist brochures.

Full Bio (500 words)

Eric Fookes is a Swiss software developer and entrepreneur whose unique journey from Earth Sciences to software innovation has established him as a pioneer in email forensics and eDiscovery technology. As founder and CEO of Fookes Software Ltd, founded in 1996 in Geneva and relocated in 2003 to the picturesque village of Charmey, Switzerland, Eric has built a company renowned for developing award-winning software solutions trusted by government agencies, Fortune 500 companies, and legal professionals worldwide.

Early Career and Academic Background

Eric's journey in software development began in 1989, when, as a Master's student in Carbonate Sedimentology at the University of Geneva, he created his first commercial product—a sophisticated DOS program that modeled the effects of sea-level change on sedimentary deposits. During his graduate research in early 1991, while examining fossil reefs near Geneva, Eric discovered an unusual foraminifer, leading to the formal description of a new genus and species, *Troglotella incrustans*, published jointly with Professor Wernli in 1992. Eric earned his Master of Sciences degree in June 1991. This unique combination of geological expertise and programming skill demonstrated Eric's exceptional ability to translate complex scientific analysis into practical software solutions—a talent that would define his career.

NoteTab: Award-Winning Innovation

In 1996, Eric began developing NoteTab as an experimental project to learn Delphi 2 programming. What started as a simple imitation of Windows Notepad evolved into a revolutionary programmable text editor that transformed how professionals approached text manipulation and automation. Initially released as freeware, NoteTab's popularity prompted Eric to create a commercial version. In 1997, NoteTab Pro was released for just \$5 per license, quickly becoming a sustainable income source.

NoteTab's innovation and quality earned widespread recognition. In 1998, NoteTab Pro won both the prestigious PC Magazine Shareware Award and the Shareware Industry Awards (SIA) People's Choice Award at the conference in Warwick, Rhode Island. PC Magazine published full-page features on the winners, catapulting NoteTab to prominence as one of the most popular text editors of its time. The software garnered additional distinctions from PC World, Microsoft, and WUGNET, establishing Fookes Software's reputation for excellence and Eric's standing as a visionary developer capable of creating tools that professionals depend on daily.

Aid4Mail: Setting the Industry Standard

In 1999, facing challenges managing his growing collection of emails, Eric developed Mailbag Assistant to search, filter, and display emails more efficiently. This personal utility evolved to support multiple email formats and was released commercially in September 1999. In 2002, Paraben Corporation approached Eric to create a rebranded version for the digital forensics market called E-mail Examiner, marking the beginning of a collaboration that lasted until 2011.

The evolution of these tools led to Aid4Mail, which was released in 2005 in both GUI and Console (CLI) formats. Aid4Mail Console's cutting-edge technology attracted partnerships with industry leaders. The software was integrated into Google's Postini service (2008–2016), serving millions of users worldwide, and into Bloomberg Finance L.P.'s automated message archiving system (2010–2018). It was also adopted as an OEM solution by X-Ways, Symantec, and Recomind (now part of OpenText Corporation), with the latter two continuing to provide it to select clients running legacy versions of their platforms.

Under Eric's leadership, Aid4Mail has become the trusted solution for half of the Fortune 50, the U.S. Department of Justice, FBI, CIA, top 100 law firms globally, leading universities, and professionals in over 100 countries. In 2016, Fookes Software won the European IT & Software Excellence Award for Software Innovation Solution of the Year, with Aid4Mail recognized as the only Swiss company to win one of Europe's most prestigious industry awards that year.

In 2025, Eric led the development of Aid4Mail 6, introducing industry-first capabilities including AI-powered email analysis, cloud attachment collection from both Microsoft and Google platforms, and a portable browser-based email viewer—innovations that further solidified Aid4Mail's position as the most advanced email processing solution available, processing emails up to 10× faster than competing solutions.

Swiss Heritage and Values

In 2008, Eric transformed Fookes Software into a *société anonyme* (limited company) and established Fookes Holding as the parent company. Embodying the high-quality standards for which Switzerland is renowned, Eric has built Fookes Software on principles of precision, reliability, and trustworthiness. The company develops all core functionality in-house, ensuring tight integration, security, and speed optimization—a commitment that has earned global recognition for excellence in email forensics and eDiscovery.

With over 25 years of email processing expertise—longer than most competing forensics vendor—Eric continues to drive innovation in email evidence collection, recovery, and analysis, ensuring professionals worldwide have the tools they need for their most critical cases.

Personal Background and Interests

Eric holds dual British and Swiss nationality. When not leading his company's continued innovation, he pursues his passion for photography. His striking images of the Swiss Prealps and the Charmey region regularly appear on Fookes Software's social media platforms, in local

tourist brochures, and magazines, showcasing the natural beauty of his adopted home in the French-speaking region of Switzerland.

Key Achievements

- **Founded Fookes Software** (1996 as sole proprietorship, 2008 as limited company) — 29 years of software innovation
 - **Discovered *Troglotella incrustans*** (1991) — New genus and species of foraminifer
 - **Created NoteTab** (1996) — Won PC Magazine's 1998 Shareware Award and SIA People's Choice Award
 - **Launched Mailbag Assistant** (1999) — Foundation for Aid4Mail's development
 - **Aid4Mail Partnerships** — Google Postini (2008–2016), Bloomberg Finance (2010–2018)
 - **European IT & Software Excellence Award** (2016) — Software Innovation Solution of the Year
 - **Industry-First AI Integration** (2025) — First forensics tool with AI-powered email analysis
 - **Cloud Attachment Pioneer** — Only tool collecting from both Microsoft and Google platforms
 - **25+ Years Email Expertise** — Longer than most competing forensics vendor
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Media Contact

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