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ALEX BOSTER

Profile

I have been a Ruby on Rails developer since Dec., 2006. Beyond that, I have a broad background with over 17 years of professional software development and systems administration experience with companies large and small. I am interested in lead, principal or senior full-time Ruby on Rails job opportunities either local to San Diego or remote work.

Experience

Software Engineer (Client), PivotalLabs for FoodyDirect San Francisco, CA 2012

Software Engineer, FoodyDirect Remote 2012-Present

One of two engineers hired to transition small startup from being a PivotalLabs client to running with their own, fully remote, staff. Full stack web development in Ruby on Rails and Backbone.js for a custom built store CMS and shopping cart with very complex ordering and shipping capabilities (closer to Amazon than Spree in complexity).

Lead developer for Ember.js based portal for suppliers to manage their workflow and utilize reports for supply and shipment planning. Perform DevOps duties for production ecosystem that used Heroku and S3/Cloudfront for hosting.

Lead Software Engineer, Extole, Inc Remote w/20% travel to San Francisco, CA 2011-2012
Took over Rails app development responsibility flagship social referral product (RAF) and filled in on other projects as needed, both Ruby and Javascript. This main application enabled reward incentivized sharing on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and via email and URL. It is a non-traditional Rails middleware application in a complex ecosystem that included Backbone.js and non-JS front-ends, a custom Java backend platform, Node.js tracking, and third party templating and media repositories. Rails middleware development used TDD.

Some specific accomplishments include: developing a Rack middleware to enable per-customer traffic shaping for RAF; developing the LinkedIn sharing plugin for RAF, including Rails middleware and Backbone.js front-end components; insourcing a standalone social sweepstakes application and finishing it for launch.

Lead/Principal Software Engineer, The DZAP Group San Diego, CA 2010-Present

Senior Software Engineer, The DZAP Group San Diego, CA 2008-2010

As lead Rails developer, built, extended, scaled, and maintained custom, market specific Ruby on Rails CMS applications. These applications grew to include such diverse elements as: web service data integration from Google Analytics and third party vendors, a custom theming and routing system (Rails alone is not sufficient here), payment processing. Rather than a typical one-size-fits-all SaaS, these products emphasize allowing a high degree of customizability for high value customers.

These projects make use of typical Rails ecosystem tools, such as git, Capistrano, PostgreSQL, Cucumber, RSpec.

Built and managed team web engineers and designers to handle the large amount of customization work from clients.

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Also play the role of systems administrator and DBA duties for production Linux systems, including configuration, deployment, and monitoring.

Senior R&D Engineer, La Touraine San Diego, CA 2007-2008

As part of small team using agile methodologies, I designed and developed a Ruby on Rails back end with web and Adobe AIR/Flex front end interfaces using RubyAMF and Cairngorm. Developed content workflow automation for providers, editors, and administrators. Developed miscellaneous internal Rails applications.

Enterprise Integration Engineer, Sony Computer Entertainment America San Diego, CA 2006-2007

With a small team, designed and developed a complex, Oracle-backed intranet Ruby on Rails application for configuration management and deployment of a large number of online game servers. Project included automating Linux systems administration, writing parsers and interpreters, LDAP authentication, RESTful APIs, workflow automation, and data versioning.

Consultant, Qualcomm San Diego, CA 2005-2006

Designed, built, and maintained a Perl framework to allow device test developers to write test suites for a new satellite communications handset. Wrote “glue” code to integrate legacy interfaces with Qualcomm’s standard Perl test framework.

Consultant & Senior Software Engineer, Archimedes San Diego, CA 2003-2006

Was primary Systems Administrator for Linux and Solaris data servers and intranet application servers. Gathered requirements, planned, bid out, implemented and maintained large tape backup library system, data storage systems, identity management & single-signon solutions. Designed and implemented back end of primary data acquisition system using MDSplus, PostgreSQL, and Perl to store large quantities of experimental high energy physics data. Created various web applications for data visualization. Oversaw work of interns.

Senior Software Engineer, Ericsson Wireless Communications San Diego, CA 2001-2003

Wrote installation and configuration tools in Perl for Solaris and Windows systems for Ericsson CDMA2000 Base Station Controllers. Gave training sessions of said tools. Wrote simulation framework in Tcl/Expect to allow testing of a BSC without connecting it to other C-RAN nodes.

Consultant, Various Lexington, KY, Zurich, CH, Dublin, IE 1997-2001

Wrote and maintained Perl web application interface to a large business records database. Performed MySQL to Oracle database migration, including parsing and transforming incoming SQL stream to new schema and syntax.

On-site Interwoven TeamSite installation, configuration, and customization consultant for clients in Europe. Mentored and was shadowed by new Interwoven employee at one job site.

Wrote Win32 driver for custom video capture card for client with video security product. Wrote C++ framework for “universal” printer drivers for Lexmark.

Wrote system for monitoring, alerting, and logging performance large-scale Unix (AIX) clusters at IBM Global Services (then ISSC).

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Gave “brown-bag” style talks on various topic such as the Unix Programming Environment, Perl Application Development, the Unix boot process, Make, vi, and so on.

Education

Bachelor of Science, Computer Science, University of Kentucky, 1991-97, 2000

Pragmatic Studio, Rails Studio (Mike Clark & Dave Thomas), Minneapolis, MN Jan 2007

Pragmatic Studio, Advanced Rails Studio (Clark, Thomas, & Chad Fowler), Dallas, TX Apr 2007

Qualcomm, CDMA & CMDA-2000 Fundamentals San Diego, CA 2002

Interwoven TeamSite Administration & Development (Boot Camp) Northern Virginia 2000

Achievements, Certifications, and Professional Associations

Delegate, RailsConf 2008-2011, Portland, OR; Las Vegas, NV; Baltimore, MD

Delegate, USENIX LISA 2003, 2005 & 2008, San Diego, CA

Delegate, AUUG (Australian Unix Users Group) Conference 1999, Melbourne, VIC, AU

Basic & Advanced VERTiAS NetBackup Enterprise Server for Solaris at VERITAS headquarters
Mountain View, CA 2005

Interwoven TeamSite boot camp (same course later used for certification) Northern VA 2000

International Finalist, ACM International Programming Contest Philadelphia, PA 1997