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Brief Robotics

2014–Present **Founder, working with a partner.**

We've developed several interesting incubation projects (ask me in person). Enjoying life outside the Microsoft filter bubble; Ubuntu/OS X, AWS, Python, Node.js, Xamarin/Mono (still F#), C, Forth, ...

Microsoft Corporation, 15 years

2011–2014 **Robotics, Microsoft Research, 3 years.**

Produced a beautiful hardware platform. Built beyond state-of-the-art Kinect-based SLAM and navigation system. Published program synthesis system applied to learning manipulation tasks.

- Manipulation
 - Presented program synthesis paper at iROS 2014 (lead author)
 - Created learning by demonstration system, program synthesis, 3D sim (F#, WPF3D)
 - Integrated object detection/recognition, grasp planning (C++, C#)
- Navigation
 - Navigation paper accepted to ICRA 2015
 - Implemented path planning and tracking for indoor navigation (C#)
 - Invented novel skeletonization and path smoothing algorithm
 - Worked on SLAM pipeline, IMU odometry, obstacle avoidance, metrics system (C++, C#)
 - Built team-wide infrastructure (FSM, UDP chunking, immutable agents) (C++, C#)
- Firmware
 - Invented Forth-inspired language and microcontroller VM (C)
 - Wrote compiler, IL translator and wire protocol (F#, IL, C)
 - Developed SDK class library; encapsulating firmware while exposing scriptability (C#)
- "Max"
 - Designed robot dev kit (RDK), API set, integrated MVVM framework (C#, Silverlight)
 - Built apps for the robot – Unboxing, Meet, Virtual Visit, Network, ... (C++, C#, Silverlight)
 - Prototyped kid's programming language and environment (F#, WPF, ASP.NET)
- Gratifying
 - Built eye gaze driven wheelchair for people with ALS; won company wide Hackathon (C#, Rx)

2008–2011 **Startup Business Group/UPG, 3 years.**

This was a business incubation group; productizing MSR technology and ideas formed within the group. I worked on several projects that "graduated" to Bing, Azure and other groups.

- OneApp
 - Lead developer on OneApp SDK team
 - Presented workshops and ran partner training
 - Worked on server-side JavaScript compiler (C#, JavaScript/ECMAScript)
 - Built "App Store" service and database (F#, SQL)
 - Worked on Visual Studio integration, background compilation and type inference (C#)
- Azure Mobile
 - Team lead for Azure Mobile Services
 - Invented cross-platform, binary compression protocol (F#, C#/WinMo, Objective-C/iOS, Java/Android)
 - Wrote mobile Service Adapter Proxy and client libraries (F#, ASP.NET)
 - Integrated Trident engine for server-side tiled rendering (C++)

- Wrote OneFish prototype – DeepFish/SeaDragon for mobile (C++, C#, JavaScript)
- Built Bing Maps OneApp client and proxy – local search, routing (F#, JavaScript)
- Demoed to executives, resulting in graduation of product and team to Bing
- Gave several functional programming and F# talks

2006–2008 **Mobile/Embedded Division, 2.5 years.**

This was mobile in the days of the “SmartPhone” and “PocketPC”, before the iPhone even existed. Maps and routing with GPS turn-by-turn directions was quite impressive at the time.

- Search Client
- Speaker at MEDC 2007 on mobile Compact .NET Framework development
 - Shipped, with one other dev, “Live Search for Mobile” in Windows Mobile ROM
 - Wrote GPS integration, turn-by-turn prompting and parts of map control (C#, .NETCF)
 - Designed UX framework for subsequent Windows Mobile 7 version (C#, XAML)
 - Earlier, ported MapPoint engine to mobile; building an offline app (C++, C#)

2003–2006 **Live/Bing Search, 2.5 years.**

I joined in the early days and shipped Search v1. Then, with one other dev, shipped Local Search and Maps v1, along with smaller features such as movies, music and Encarta instant answers.

- Local Search
- Invented/patented method for location-based search in an inverted index
 - Built local data ingestion, hygiene and indexing pipeline (C++)
 - Integrated TerraServer aerial imagery (before Virtual Earth existed) (C++, JavaScript)
- Infrastructure
- Worked on core web server – built from scratch using http.sys and netlib (C++)
 - Designed and implemented localization infrastructure – 50 languages (C++)
- Answers
- Worked on instant answer federation pipeline (C++)
 - Built and shipped movies, music and Encarta instant answers (C++)

1999–2003 **MSN Home/My, 4.5 years.**

Here I worked on the rendering engine, editorial tools and Home and MyMSN pages worldwide (including a trip to Japan to ship msn.co.jp). We shipped v7 on a pre-release build of .NET.

- Invented XSLT-based publishing engine for co-branding and localization (XSLT, C#)
- Wrote major portions of the “Granite” rendering engine for static content (C#, XSLT)
- Wrote dynamic client-side modules (stocks, weather, sports, ...) (JavaScript)
- Went to Japan to train staff on publishing tools and helped build and ship msn.co.jp

Intel Corporation, Folsom, CA

1998–1999 **Database Management Group, CDAM, 1.5 years.**

Built company-wide metadata system for managing database and SAP object dependencies. Wrote COM interfaces to legacy systems. (SQL, Oracle, C++, COM)

Previous

1996–1998 **Insights International, 1.5 years.**

I was employee #1 at this Internet startup; handling systems engineering and software development.

1993–1996 **Thoen Publishing, 3 years.**

Revolutionized pagination and image setting processes. Migrated publications to the web.

1992–1993 **Moscow-Pullman Daily News, 1.5 years.**

Migrated aging Hastech typesetting system to Macintoshes, QuarkXPress and image setters.

Side Projects

- Finishing a book, “Forthwright” – covering Forth in detail and Charles Moore’s career
- My own language, “Brief” – a fixed arity, normal order, concatenative language
- Several active open source projects (see <http://github.com/ashleyf>)