MY (PROFESSIONAL) STORY

CHRIS TURNER

PROFILE

I have been lucky enough to have large variety in my career. From working on Windows servers and Cisco routers, to helping to define and implement a world class continuous delivery and release software product, to coaching and training organizations in how to implement agile methodologies in their own unique situation. Everything I have done has made me appreciate a simple reality: communication is the most important thing on any team. It doesn't matter role you are filling or what work you are doing.

EXPERIENCE

AGILE TRAINER AND COACH, THOUGHTWORKS STUDIOS SAN FRANCISCO, CA APR2010-PRESENT

- Helped define the technical practices training program
- Delivered training material and coaching covering:
  - Continuous Integration/Delivery best practices (using Go)
  - Automated Testing best practices (using Twist)
  - General Agile Engineering Practices
  - Continous Delivery

ThoughtWorks Studios is the Agile software solutions and training devision of ThoughtWorks. Their products and services are used by nearly 400 organizations worldwide. The products are focused on Agile Project Management (Mingle), Agile Testing (Twist), Agile Release Management and Continuous Delivery (Go).

SENIOR DEVELOPER, THOUGHTWORKS STUDIOS SAN FRANCISCO, CA AUG2007-MAR2010

- Helped define the direction and design of the Go Continuous Delivery Server
- Worked distributed with a team in Beijing for 9 months
- Introduced the DVCS Mercurial to the team

ThoughtWorks is a global IT consultancy, founded in 1993, focused on revolutionizing software creation and delivery while advocating for positive social change in the world. The company has been instrumental in the Agile software development movement, especially in the distributed and enterprise spaces.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT, THOUGHTWORKS CHICAGO, IL FEB2006-JUL2007

In addition to my java development responsibilities, I helped out with both automated testing and deployment into production. I worked primarily on 2 client projects:

One was a back-end system to parse and process a massive streamed data set before inserted inserted it into a database.

On another, I was team lead of a component in a large medical record system.

NETWORK TECHNICIAN, NETWORKING SOLUTIONS WATERLOO, IA JUNE2005-FEB2006

- Software installation/maintenance on both server and desktop machines
- Cisco router configuration
- Wireless access point configuration and installation
- Small software development projects for local companies

Networking Solutions is a small organization primarily focused on managing IT for many companies in the NE Iowa area. The company manages not only the network infrastructure, but also does small custom application development as needed.

EDUCATION

University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA — B.A. in Computer Science, 2003

--> http://bestfriendchris.github.com/resume <--

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Technical Experience

Programming Languages

- Java *(6 years professional experience, 10+ years total)*
- Javascript *(4 years professional experience)*
- Ruby *(10+ years experience)*
  - Primarily used in small server scripts
  - Haven't used it much lately, but picking it back up should be trivial
- Clojure *(2 years experience)*
  - Mostly on small, personal projects
- bash/zsh scripting *(7+ years experience)*
- Scheme, Haskell, C#, Objective-C, Scala
  - Light, but workable knowledge of all of these

I believe that the more types of programming languages you know, the more tools you have in your toolbox. Some languages (Haskell, Clojure, Javascript, Scheme) have had a profound impact on how I write code in any language.

Build/Deploy

- Ant *(6 years professional experience)*
- Rake *(2 years professional experience)*
- Buildr *(1 year professional experience)*
- Chef *(2 years light experience)*
  - Mostly played around with this in my free time

On all software development projects I've been involved with, I've been the "build guy". I love working to improve the process of building and deploying software to keep the build time down, to receive the fastest feedback possible of the status of the build, and ensuring everybody on the team can use the build script effectively and easily.

Most recently I've gotten interested in the DevOps movement. I like the bridging of my developer background with my (light) operations background. I've also worked closely with Jez Humble (co-author of the Continuous Delivery book) for the better part of 4 years.

Version Control

- Git *(4 years experience)*
- Mercurial *(4 years professional experience)*
- Subversion *(4 years professional experience, not recently)*

I've been using version control systems for more than 7 years. I started using Subversion, but lately have been using DVCS almost exclusively. Professionally we've been using mostly Mercurial, while for my personal projects I've been using primarily Git.

Testing

- Fit/Twist *(5 years professional experience)*
  - ThoughtWorks Twist product is largely inspired from Fit
- Selenium/WebDriver/Sahi *(5 years professional experience)*
- JUnit *(6 years professional experience)*

Automated testing is an important part of any software project. By working closely with the QAs on the various teams I've been a part of, I have a strong understanding of the best ways to structure and organize automated functional test scripts, as well as the code underneath.

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INTERESTS

Functional Programming

The first language I learned was Scheme in a CS1 college course I took while in High School. This has had a remarkable impact in the way that I think about writing software. I personally have found functional code to be easier to reason about, especially in the world of concurrent programming.

It is for this reason that my current favorite programming language has become Clojure. The multiple immutable data structures this language provides as well as lisp-like homoiconicity and macro system are massively powerful.

DevOps

The industry has not completely solidified what the term `DevOps` actually means, but for me the idea is around bridging the worlds of Development and Operations. Traditional agile teams have focused and optimized primarily the creation, testing, and bug-fixing of features for the business. Speed of delivery (along with quality) is the primary motivator in this area. The operations groups tend to be more concerned with stability and maintainability. By leveraging learnings from the agile software movement (such as version control, automated testing, etc), the intent is to give operations the ability to better manage increasing volatility and speed within their sphere of influence.

Programming Languages

The interesting thing about programming languages is how they can shape the way you think about a problem. Some problems are better suited to one language over another. For example, primarily algorithmic or concurrency problems are best reasoned about in a functional language like Haskell or Clojure, whereas sequential, process oriented might find a better fit in a more procedural language like Java.

Beyond shaping the way you think, programming languages are exploring many different focuses of the language. For example, Scala is exploring a mixed functional and object-oriented programming style, Clojure is exploring how best to write concurrent programs (primarily through the use of immutable data structures and a Software Transactional Memory system), Haskell has focused on functional purity, and Erlang has focused on high availability and uptime of the entire system (partly by allowing individual components to die and restart on error).

I am a complete language nerd.

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