



Katrina Ortiz • 3rd

Lead Software Developer at Insurance Technologies, Inc

Miami/Fort Lauderdale Area

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Insurance Technologies



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I caught fire coding.

I always thought my dream was to be a proofreader for a little indie publishing company, sipping my cafe con leche and reading the opening lines to the next best-selling vampire novel. It seemed like an appropriate dream given my BA in English. I gravitated toward proofreading and quality control positions and even started my own proofreading business. But I kind of just felt meh. I yearned to learn more, yearned to learn something different.

And that's when it happened; the spark I was missing ignited the instant I clicked play on my first Python tutorial video. (I mean seriously, how could it not be great when it's named after Monty Python's Flying Circus?) Since then, I can't get enough. Front-end web development calls to all my passions; it incorporates creativity and problem solving and I'm allowed to break it to improve the code (in a separate Git branch, of course).

I love applying responsive design principles and watching my web pages shrink into mobile screens and still look amazing. It's oddly satisfying. I think in a way I'm kind of like those web pages; I'm moldable, but I still keep my creative flare intact.

My specialties include quickly learning new skills and programming languages, problem solving, responsive design principles, website optimization, and the Model View View Model (MVVM) and Model View Controller (MVC) methods of organizing code. So far I have JavaScript, HTML, CSS, C#, Python, jQuery, Bootstrap, Knockout, AngularJS, Jasmine, Grunt, and Git/GitHub under my belt. I've started learning Node.JS, MongoDB, and Express.JS. I'm still enthusiastically grabbing onto any other programming languages, frameworks, or principles I can integrate into the coding web in my head.

Katrina stands out because she:

- Hooks her readers with a short, provocative sentence.
- Gives humanizing context to her career switch.
- Uses keyword-rich skills list to show off her progress and intrinsic motivation to learn.

3. Shanay ties her job to her company's big picture and shows pride in what she does