Jeffrey L. Cohen

9242 Keystone Ave
Skokie, IL 60076

847-219-4848

email cohen.jeff@gmail.com
web jeffcohenonline.com
twitter @jeffcohen

PROFILE

I am an independent software consultant, specializing in the architecture and development of database-backed web applications. I also serve as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago in the Masters of Computer Science Program; and as an Adjunct Lecturer of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

I served on the Illinois State Board of Education's Curriculum Revitalization advisory panel for the 2015-2016 academic year, advising on statewide high school computer science curricula standardization as well as career track development. I am highly interested in tech education at all grade levels, and volunteer my time consulting with school districts around the country on coding, STEM-related curricula, and teaching methods.

I have worked with object-oriented programming languages and application frameworks for more than 20 years. In 2008, I started Purple Workshops, conducting beginner-level workshops in Ruby, Rails, and agile software techniques.   I am well connected to the Chicago tech community and speak at conferences in Chicago and across the country, and was named in Crain's "Chicago Tech 50" for 2012.

I am co-author of the book *Ruby on Rails for .NET Developers* published by Pragmatic Press in 2008. I am a Ruby on Rails core contributor, teacher, and writer.

I started learning computer programming in high school in the mid-1980's by using BASIC on a Commodore PET-32. I then learned 6502 Assembly, Pascal, C, C++, Prolog, PL/1, and a variety of Microsoft architectures including MFC, ATL, and .NET for both Windows-based desktops and ASP.NET web applications. In 2005 I ventured into open source languages and communities, notably Ruby and the Rails framework.

I believe in agile software strategies, project-based learning, and opening the world of computer programming to folks from all walks of life, by curating an inclusive, beginner-friendly classroom culture and curriculum.

More details about my current work can be found at http://www.jeffcohenonline.com.

PUBLICATIONS

Leveraging Retrospectives, *PragPub Magazine, Issue 55, Jan. 2014. http://theprosegarden.com/*

Open Source Community Values, *PragPub Magazine, Issue 28, Sept. 2011.* http://pragprog.com/magazines

Rails for .NET Developers. *Pragmatic Bookshelf, 2008. 300 pages. ISBN 978-1-93435-620-3. Currently out of print. More info at http://pragprog.com/book/cerailn/rails-for-net-developers*

CONFERENCE SPEAKERSHIPS

Computer Science: The Good Parts coming up at RubyConf 2016 (keynote); previous versions delivered at *ThatConference* on August 7, 2016 and *WindyCityRails* on September 17, 2015. Slides and video available online.

Web Development Secrets Revealed on May, 2013 at *WebVisions* 2013, Portland, OR. Slides available.

Coding for MBAs on April, 2013 at the *Kellogg Tech Conference at Northwestern University.* Slides available.

Workshop: Improving your code skills at *WindyCityRails* in September, 2012.

Coding is for Everyone in September, 2012 at *WebVisions Chicago*.

Panelist, "Teaching Rails" at the *MadisonRuby Conference* in August, 2012.

Rails for .NET Developers on April, 2011 at *Codepalousa* in Louisville, KY.

EDUCATION

Northwestern University — Bachelor of Science, School of Speech, 1992.

EXPERIENCE

Founder, Purple Workshops, LLC
2008-present

I founded my consultancy in 2008, specializing in both bespoke application development and developer training. Past clients include Bloomberg, L.P., Juniper Networks, Groupon, Publishers Clearinghouse, Chicago Run, Code Academy, Periodical Publisher's Service Bureau.

Lecturer, The University of Chicago; Chicago, IL
2013-present

I'm honored to hold an appointment as Lecturer in the Masters Program in Computer Science. I currently teach three courses throughout the year: Concepts of Programming, Web Development, and Advanced Web Development. I development the curriculum for both of the web development courses.

Adjunct Lecturer, Northwestern University; Evanston, IL
2013-present

I am currently an Adjunct Lecturer for Innovation an Entrepreneurship at the Kellogg School of Management. I currently teach two courses throughout the year: KIEI-924 Introduction to Software Development, and KIEI-924 Startup Programming and Management. As part of the Levy Institute for Entrepreneurship, my courses introduce business students to software coding (both front-end and back-end web development) and agile management practices.

Chief Instructor, The Starter League; Chicago, IL
2011-2014

I joined The Starter League to teach their very first class offering in 2011, the first "coding school" that helped start a movement of coding schools around the nation. I supervised four instructors and was responsible for the curriculum of 5 different course offerings, covering web development and design. I also contributed to internal software projects and the company's public website.

Lead Developer, Leapfrog Online; Evanston, IL
2006-2011

At Leapfrog I was responsible for leading a team of 2-4 software developers as we built applications using the Ruby on Rails framework. I also acted as an agile team leader, mentor to employees across various teams, spoke at monthly lightning talks, and served on various engineering leadership committees.

I also introduced agile practices beyond the engineering teams, and held various roles as product owner and project manager to help bridge the gap between the engineering and business development teams.

Lead Developer, Crate&Barrel; Northbrook, IL
2003-2006

At Crate&Barrel I held the position of Lead Developer for Retail Technology, which basically meant "everything inside a retail store": the point-of-sale systems, gift registry kiosks, and back-of-house mainframe terminals. I led the development of a completely new, .NET-based point-of-sale that's still in use today, deployed across every story in the chain (more that 125 nationwide). I also taught internal classes on software development, testing, and alternative technologies.

Sr. Software Developer, InstallShield Software; Schaumburg, IL
1998-2003

I rose from a Software Engineer to Lead Developer of *InstallShield Express*, contributed to the flagship *InstallShield* software, and other projects. It was all C++ for Windows desktops, back when we used compact discs to sell software.

Lead Developer, SSIS; Chicago, IL
1997-1998

Used C++/ATL and didn't get to do much. Left after about 6 months when I saw no future for me there.

Software Developer, Med-E-Systems; Chicago, IL
1995-1997

Used VB6 and C++/MFC to create software for handheld medical software. Part of a team, learned a lot, got my first exposure to real project management.

Software Developer, IRI; Chicago, IL
1994-1995

Learned PL/1 to create statistical analyses of grocery store data.

Software Developer, ATLA; Evanston, IL
1992-1994

My first job out of school (though not my first paid programming job) was at the American Theological Library Association when their headquarters were in Evanston. Learned Microsoft C, unix emulators, and full-text search mechanics.