

MIKEWEST

Mike West is a web application developer who has professionally programmed for the web since 1998. By working on a wide variety of projects ranging from UI consulting to enterprise-level PHP products, Mike has developed the experience and expertise to deliver quality solutions that *work* and build value for their users.



Applicable Buzzwords

PHP, JavaScript, AJAX, CSS, HTML, SQL, XML, XSLT, Perl, UI, Ruby on Rails, Object-Oriented

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Education

In 2003, I graduated from the **University of Texas at Austin** with a degree in Philosophy and minors in Computer Science and German. This liberal-arts background is fairly unusual among programmers; I see it as a distinct advantage. Philosophy, combined with my experience as a debater in high school, provides solid mechanisms for analyzing problems and crafting solutions in a clear and systematic way.

I left Texas in December 2005, moving to Oberndorf, Germany. Currently, I'm working my way through additional language classes at **Stuttgart Universität** to better integrate myself into my new surroundings.

Expertise

I do the vast majority of my programming work in **PHP**: At Dallas Airmotive my team designed and built a large-scale, **object-oriented PHP** system that touched every part of the organization. At RightNow, I customized a PHP CRM for clients' individual needs and integrated it into various backend systems. **Apache** and **MySQL** running on some flavour of **Unix** drove both these systems.

JavaScript is rapidly becoming a critical part of any web application's **UI**. I've published a number of articles regarding its unobtrusive use, and released an easy to integrate, event-driven **AJAX** library under the LGPL.

Elegant JavaScript-based UI improvements are, of course, intertwined with well constructed HTML documents. I generally hand-code sites' **CSS** and **HTML**, adhering to standards as strictly as I reasonably can.

I use **XML** and **XSLT** fairly extensively as a clean mechanism for data transfer between application components, both server-side in PHP and client-side through JavaScript.

Beyond my coding proficiency, **I understand SQL** and can design and work with complex relational databases. **I can communicate intelligently** with technical and non-technical audiences. Relatedly, **I can write documentation** for my team and for the end-user.

Experience

Application Engineer at RightNow Technologies

Mar. 2005 – Jan. 2006

I worked directly with clients to customize RightNow's complete CRM solution to meet their needs and to integrate it into pre-existing backend systems. My role ranged from small tweaks to the software's UI, up to sweeping rewrites that created completely new functionality.

I worked both on- and off-site, serving clients like Motorola, Orbitz, and PricewaterhouseCoopers, and was responsible both for scoping each project and implementing the scoped changes. A variety of languages were used, PHP primarily, with Perl, Python, Ruby, and Bash scripting mixed in to varying extents on a project-by-project basis depending on the clients' needs.

Web Programmer at Dallas Airmotive

Aug. 2003 – Mar. 2005

I helped design and implement Turbine Update: a suite of applications responsible for everything from internal ticket tracking for the IT and maintenance departments to a client-facing ERP system allowing customers to track their engines' repair status. It's a huge, object-oriented PHP system that touches literally every department in the company.

My responsibilities included aspects of the project's entire life-cycle, including gathering initial requirements, documenting specifications, designing database models, building various user interfaces, writing large chunks of the backend, and squashing annoying bugs. I also wrote the end-user documentation.

IT Department at Moreland Properties

Jan. 2001 – Aug. 2003

I was the entire IT department for this 88-agent real estate firm. I developed their website and intranet, administered their network and hardware, provided technical support, and made purchasing recommendations.