



# MY NAME IS JONATHAN BIRKHOLZ.

I want to compete and excel at the highest level of software development.

## // TL;DR

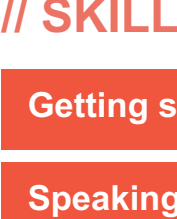
I am an author, developer, teacher, community leader, serial CTO, and business owner.

I am full stack developer delivering software for over 15 years in a variety of languages on a variety of platforms.

I have a long history of training, speaking, leading, and mentoring fellow developers.

I am always seeking to self-improve and grow by seeking new challenges.

I am community leader part of houston.js, Rails Girls Houston, Houston Ruby Brigade, and Space City JS.



*JB is a superb technical software developer, with skills up and down the stack. He has expertise in both the business and software domains and is the rare developer that can talk with normal people in addition to techies. JB is a great person, someone you want to mentor your younger developers, safeguard your culture, and build your team.*

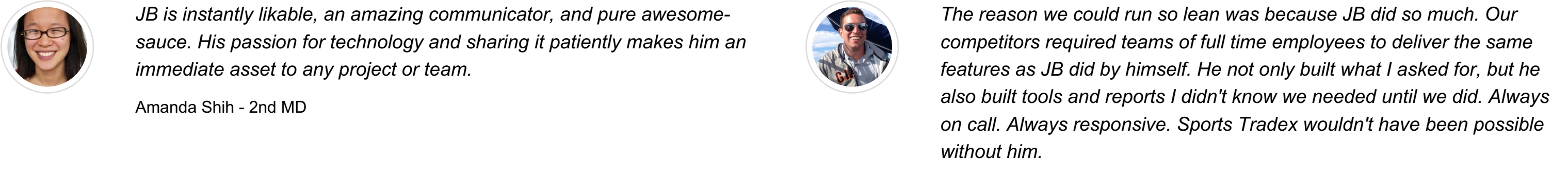
Jesse Wolgamott - Comal Productions



*Jonathan is the type of developer that you want on your team. Not only was he able to be add value on day one of our project, his UI/UX skills in addition to his software development skills are a killer combo. Jonathan is excellent at communicating as well as distilling customer requests into software features. I hope to be able to work with him again soon.*

Ian Warshak - TrackGo, LLC

## // SKILLS



## // ABOUT ME

I am a software craftsman with over 15 years experience delivering excellence. I have shipped software on a variety of platforms including web, desktop, and mobile. I excel at learning new technologies and utilizing them to rapidly building applications.

I have an entrepreneurial spirit and a drive to get things done. I enjoy gathering requirements and developing a simple minimal plan to get a product out as soon as possible.

I focus on test driven development as the best method to develop quality software. I prefer simple code to clever code. I use open source solutions where possible so that I do not waste time re-inventing the wheel. I keep it simple, keep it reliable, and continually deliver.

I use agile methodologies throughout my life creating small iterations that lead to larger goals. I am not afraid to recognize mistakes and face the hardest truths first.

I enjoy teaching fellow developers and regularly contributing back to the developer community through hackathons, training, and presenting at user groups.



*Jonathan excels in software architecture, design and development. His analysis skills are excellent which helps him to quickly understand 'true' application requirements. Jonathan can lead the design and development effort of any software project. With just minimal high-level requirements, Jonathan is able to quickly develop a design for any technical challenge whether it is for a back-end system need or a front-end user interface requirement. He is able to tackle any issue while continuing to improve and refine the system design. He is also a great team collaborator and mentor for junior developers, teaching them the importance of system design and testing during the entire software development life-cycle. If given the choice, I would always want to have Jonathan on my team leading the development effort.*

John McPherson - Catapult Systems

## // COMMUNITY

### Virtual Brown Bag (<http://virtualbrownbag.com>)

Organizer of a weekly online meeting where we discussed a wide range of topics with lots of live coding.

### houston.js (<http://houstonjs.com>)

Founded Houston's first JavaScript user group and ran for many years.

### Space City JS (<http://www.spacecityjs.com>)

An organizer of Houston's first JavaScript conference.

### Houston Developers Book Club

Started an online weekly meeting to talk about books on software development.

### Houston Ruby Brigade

Frequent speaker and contributor to Houston's Ruby user group.



*I had the opportunity to sit under Jonathan's excellent training in WPF development. Not only was his presentation skill demonstrated but I was also aware from the content and his hands on demonstrations the depth of knowledge and skill as a developer this man owns. I would not hesitate to recommend him for any training or any development projects you may have. Jonathan delivers great value and every experience I've had with him has revealed character, integrity, and leadership in the development field.*

James Wade - Fractional IT

## // BOOKS & GUIDES

### Build an Application with Phoenix (<http://www.learningwithjb.com/guides/building-an-app-with-phoenix>)\*

A guided walkthrough on building a web application with Phoenix, a web framework written in Elixir

### Ecto for Beginners (<http://www.learningwithjb.com/guides/ecto-for-beginners>)\*

An example filled book covering the common usages of Ecto, the database library written in Elixir

### Learn Gulp (<http://www.learningwithjb.com/guides/learning-gulp>)

A walkthrough using Gulp to make a sophisticated build script that generates a static website like Jekyll

### Angularails (<http://www.angularails.com/>)

A how-to guide for using AngularJS with Rails

\* - currently being written

## // RECENT TALKS

### Perpetual Learning (<http://www.learningwithjb.com/posts/perpetual-learning-talk>)

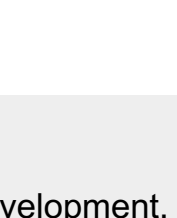
The key to being a better developer is to always be learning. We are going to cover techniques and tactics for speeding up your learning. We will also cover how to stay focused, encouraged, and not get overwhelmed.

### Phoenix: Phast, Phunctional, and Phucking Awesome (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GW4XQ6hJQis&feature=youtu.be&t=2m31s>)

In this talk we will review where Rails started, the current problems of Rails, the power of Erlang, where Elixir fits into the equation, and how Phoenix is a beautiful concoction of the best of Rails, Erlang, and Elixir.

### React + ES6 + alt (a flux framework) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wNWjtp-Ldg>)

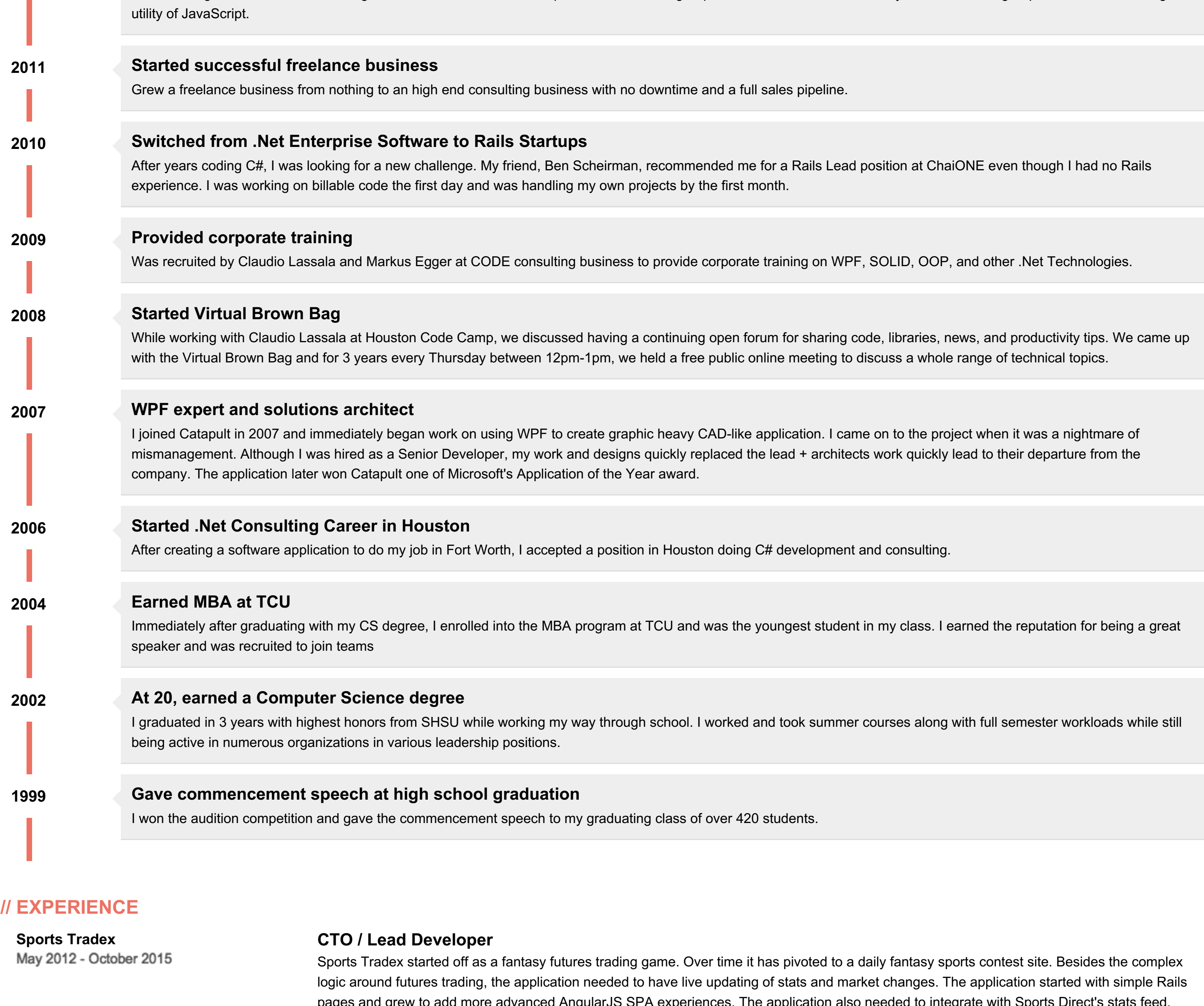
We walk through creating a React application from scratch (mostly) and using alt to prove a uni-directional data flow like Flux. Oh.. and using Babel to provide ES6 style JavaScript.



*I have had the pleasure of working with JB on several challenging projects. I can always depend on him to contribute interesting ideas, share the passion for the product and ask tough questions to insure we're not missing anything. His entrepreneurial spirit and eye for detail make him a valuable team player.*

Bobby Hankinson - ChaiONE

## // HIGHLIGHTS



## // EXPERIENCE

<b>Sports Tradex</b> May 2012 - October 2015	
<b>Angularails</b> 2013	
<b>XLNTbrain</b> December 2011 - March 2014	
<b>Birkholz Creative, LLC</b> August 2011 - Present	
<b>CodeMav</b> November 2010 - March 2012	
<b>ChaiONE</b> August 2010 - August 2011	
<b>SolArc</b> April 2010 - June 2010	
<b>EPS / CODE Software</b> October 2009 - April 2010	
<b>Catapult Systems</b> April 2007 - October 2009	
<b>Software Architects - SARK</b> June 2006 - April 2007	
<b>Texas Health Resources</b> May 2004 - May 2006	

<b>CTO / Lead Developer</b> Sports Tradex started off as a fantasy futures trading game. Over time it has pivoted to a daily fantasy sports contest site. Besides the complex logic around futures trading, the application needed to have live updating of stats and market changes. The application started with simple Rails pages and grew to add more advanced AngularJS SPA experiences. The application also needed to integrate with Sports Direct's stats feed. This involved creating a separate proxy service that would parse the XML and provide live scoring and stats updating using Pusher. Eventually performance and scaling being a factor so many of the features of the application were moved over to Elixir and Phoenix. <div>PhoenixElixirAngularJSRailsCoffeeScriptJavaScriptPusherPostgresHeroku</div>	<b>Author</b> I had been using AngularJS with several Rails projects and felt there wasn't a practical resource for using the two together. I worked with Jesse Wolgamott and we first put together an Angularails workshop. We gave the workshop at Lone Star Ruby Conference 2013. Afterwards we decided to package all the material and code into a book: Angularails ( <a href="http://www.angularails.com/">http://www.angularails.com/</a> ( <a href="http://www.angularails.com/">http://www.angularails.com/</a> )). I found a love for writing about code and have subsequently published new books and got back to blogging. <div>AngularJSRails</div>
<b>Lead Rails Developer</b> XLNTbrain provides quality concussion management programs for high schools and colleges. The Rails site is responsible for managing the new athlete workflow, measuring & displaying cognitive test results, and a robust API for their iOS & Android apps. <div>AngularJSRailsCoffeeScriptJavaScriptMongoHeroku</div>	<b>Owner</b> I didn't have a lot of time to work on my personal startup while working for ChaiOne, so I left to focus on the startup in the fall of 2011. I picked up freelance gigs to help pay the bills. I quickly found that I enjoyed the freelance work more than my startup so I just turned that into my own business. Just weeks after going freelance, I was full of work and have never had any downtime. I found I didn't need lots of leads because recommendations from clients and peers kept my inbox full of opportunities for more work. <div>PhoenixElixirKnockoutAngularJSRailsJavaScriptMongoPostgresEmberD3.jsIOSAndroidHeroku</div>
<b>Developer / Founder</b> Created own Rails startup allowing users to consolidate all their developer profiles into a single profile. The website used Rails, Mongo, Resque, Bootstrap, and consumed numerous public APIs. Analyzed profiles for taggable skills and awarded points for their activity. Then rated users on their skills and points constructing charts showing their progress with languages over time. I worked on site in the evenings and weekends launching site in May 2011. I eventually shutdown CodeMav in March 2012 after I could not discover a method to generate revenue and found I was enjoying my work on other freelance projects more. <div>RailsJavaScriptMongoHeroku</div>	<b>Lead Developer</b> I started at ChaiONE with no working experience in Rails. I quickly rose to become one of the lead developers for Rails and worked on numerous client projects. <div>RailsJavaScriptMongoPostgresBackbonePhone GapHeroku</div>
<b>Tech Lead / Architect</b> Led a team of developers to adopt new coding practices including SOLID, OOP, and Testing through training, code reviews, and paired programming. Within a month, team was responsible for writing over 300 tests (~35% of total tests in solution) in addition to traditional workload. Provided guidance on designing reporting solution to be decoupled from third party vendor control suite. Used a home grown Kanban system to manage work flow for my team. <div>C#WinFormsTFS 2008</div>	<b>Lead Software Developer</b> Developed a MVVM framework for WPF leveraging AOP with PostSharp, StructureMap, Event Aggregation and Convention over Configuration that was used in 2 applications. Conducted code reviews and helped refactor existing features on other client legacy applications. Participated in software methodology and process discussions. Gathered requirements, grouped requirements into features, provided work estimates, and scheduled features into iterations. Conducted multiple 3 day WPF Training seminars for different clients with attendees from around the world. Led internal training on testing, design patterns, and MVVM frameworks. <div>C#WPFWCF</div>
<b>Senior Consultant (in Lead and Architect roles)</b> Senior Developer for pension system application developed using WPF, Linq to Sql, and Composite WPF (MVVM). Lead developer for a heavily graphical solution built using WPF, WCF, Silverlight 1.0, CAB, and Microsoft SQL. Heavily involved with design and implementation of the complex object models, WPF and Silverlight visuals, WPF / CAB architecture, and packing algorithms for calculator. Gathered requirements, created designs, gathered estimates, and set out work schedule for development team. Awarded the Custom Development Solutions, Web Development Partner of the Year 2009 by Microsoft. Trained & mentored developers on MVVM, Testing, Design Patterns, and WPF. <div>C#WPFWCFSilverlight</div>	<b>Consultant</b> Part of team migrating a legacy enterprise web application (ASP) to a WinForms application. Maintained and updated ASP .Net knowledge management solution. Conducted internal training on WPF and Workflow. <div>C#WPFWinForms</div>
<b>Reimbursement Analyst / Developer</b> Designed and constructed the Managed Care Dashboard as well as the Ambulatory Knowledge Management System Dashboard using ASP .Net 1.1 and Office Web Components. Programmed a C# WinForm Rates Management System to create, manipulate, and analyze rate schedules. Using the Rates Management Database, built the Co-insurance Estimator (ASP .Net) used by admissions for 13 hospitals. <div>C#VBWinForms</div>	

## // EDUCATION



