Bob Allison

Senior Software Engineer - Columbus, Ohio

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Highly proficient detail-oriented Java developer with additional experience with automation languages such as Kubernetes, Terraform, and Github Actions.

Experienced problem solver who can take a complex poorly understood problem, dig into the details to understand the problem, and work to find and implement a solution.

Strong proponent of automated testing during build and deployment to ensure that software works as intended and to prevent future changes from creating unexpected problems.

Code samples available at https://github.com/allison-bob/adventOfCode

Key Skills

- Java
- Maven
- Unit and Integration Tests
- GitHub Actions
- Problem Solving
- Spring Boot
- Test Data Development
- AWS: EC2, ECS
- Detail Oriented
- DB: PostgreSQL, Oracle

Professional Experience

Career Break   October 2024 to Present

After an unexpected downsizing, took some time off to consider early retirement.

McGraw Hill, Columbus, OH   October 2014 to October 2024
Senior Platform Engineer

Hired as full-time employee based on work performance. Developed software and architecture for several projects within several business units, including application code, GitHub Actions for building and deployment, and Terraform for managing the various environments; also assisted with solving runtime problems.

- Rewrite of the Catalog Transformation Tool (CTT), an ETL process to feed product marketing information to several downstream systems:
  - Old code had very little testing or documentation
  - New code had complete unit testing
  - New code had integration testing to validate that the output files were functionally identical to the old code's output files
  - New code included extensive documentation, both within the code and in the company Confluence repository
- Implementation of Inclusive Access, a process that allows colleges to automatically assign class materials to students as part of class enrollment rather than requiring the students to purchase the materials:
  - Required coordination of multiple business units to get the correct data flowing to the appropriate services
- Implementation of OAuth authentication interface, allowing students to log in to McGraw Hill systems from their school's system without requiring a password
- Implementation of graph database and service to define the authorization of users to digital learning assets

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Quick Solutions, Columbus, OH   November 2010 to October 2014
Consultant at McGraw Hill

Developed software for many back-end components of the ConnectED product. In addition, my first task was the first major expansion of the ConnectED infrastructure, including:
- Defining architecture for Tomcat-based ConnectED environments, including migration from existing JBoss environments
- Working with team building the machines and infrastructure to ensure planning of details will result in working environments then verifying that the machines and infrastructure were built as planned
- Building Jenkins jobs to coordinate application component builds
- Building the scripts to deploy applications in the new environment

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Various Employers   May 1985 to November 2010
Details are available on request

Highlights of older employment:
- Network administrator, including physical wiring, network infrastructure, and management of network adapters and network software – 12 years
- System administrator for various types of servers including VAXClusters, Solaris (both Intel and Sun hardware), and HP-UX – 14 years
- Software developer in several languages – 25 years

- Development of basic identity management system in Perl
- Part of team implementing commercial identity management solution

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Technical Skills

Programming Languages and Tools:
- Expert knowledge in Java
- Significant experience with Perl, JDBC, Hibernate, and EJB
- Significant experience with Jenkins, CircleCI, and GitHub Actions

Server Software:
- Significant experience with Apache web server and Tomcat web application server
- Significant experience with Docker, Kubernetes
- Moderate experience using RabbitMQ

Database Schema and Queries:
- Significant experience with PostgreSQL and Oracle
- Moderate experience with MySQL and Sybase

Amazon Web Services:
- Significant experience with EC2, ECS
- Moderate experience with S3, Lambda, VPC, RDS, CLI

Network Management:
- Expert knowledge in TCP/IP and DNS
- Significant experience with firewall management

Certifications

- Red Hat Certified Engineer
- Sun Certified Java Programmer
- Sun Certified Java Developer
- Sun Certified Business Component Developer (EJBs)
- Sun Certified Web Component Developer (Servlets)