Joan Gamell, Engineering Manager

gamell [at] gamell [dot] io   +1 (415) 825 2758   http://gamell.io   http://github.com/gamell   http://www.linkedin.com/in/gamell

Technologist bred and fascinated by the web. Have years of experience in **full stack development** and made the jump to **management** while still hands-on when needed. Thrive in the **mix of technical and leadership roles**, looking at management from the problem solving perspective and striving to improve every day. Keep my tech skills up to date by "scratching my own itch" with some open-source projects.

Professional Experience

Engineering Manager at Expedia in San Francisco, Jul 2015 - present

Expedia is one of the world's largest Online Travel Agent (OTA)

Having hands-on technical skills in this managerial position helps me to successfully scale and lead an energetic team of engineers who own the whole stack and deploy to production daily following `Continuous Deployment` practices.

- Built and led a successful team of Developers and Technical Project Manager who own the complete Product & Tech Stack and **reliably deliver according to the Product expectations**.

- **Successfully doubled the team's size** by on-boarding new team members in two new remote locations in less than two months while minimizing the impact on sprint velocity and deliverables.

- Successfully work through the **challenges of leading a distributed team across 4 locations in 3 distant timezones** and adjust the team's processes for optimal performance in this remote configuration.

- **Hire new team members in a competitive market** satisfying the given timeframe.

- **Mentor and coach team members**, empowering them to take decisions and to continuously improve themselves. Work through performance issues with team members when needed.

- Lay out the **technical vision for the product**, liaise and collaborate with other teams.

- **Ensure quality** is built-in and automated in the code.

- **Write code**, pair coding, perform code reviews and help debug issues. Main languages used are `JavaScript` , `Java` , `HTML` and `CSS` .

Tech Lead / Technical Project Manager at Expedia in San Francisco, Oct 2014 - Jul 2015

First role with **people manager responsibilities** in a small team of engineers where we owned the whole product and project.

- Successfully led the effort to **scale the system to serve x5 more customers with the same team**.

- Was **main project point person** and liaison with other teams and Product stakeholders.

- Assumed the de-facto role of a **Technical Project Manager** / Delivery Manager and perfected the team's semi-kanban process.

- **Hired**, on-boarded and mentored new team members.

- **Main front-end developer** in the team, using mainly `vanilla JS` , `LESS/CSS` , `HTML` and `node` .

- **Collaborated with Product** stakeholders on new feature planning and estimation.

Front-end Engineer at Expedia in Singapore, Oct 2012 - Oct 2014

Main front-end developer of a fully-responsive, high-traffic, highly-available e-commerce website: **AirAsiaGo (https://www.airasiago.com)**. Used `Kanban` & `Continuous Deployment` methodologies and followed `Clean Code` practices.

- **Developed, tested and shipped** cross-browser, responsive, retina-ready features and modules built with `HTML5` , `JavaScript` - `jQuery` , `Backbone` , `AngularJS` etc - `CSS3 (LESS)` , `SVG` , `sprites` , etc. on top of a `Spring (Java)` back-end.

- **Led the team's front-end vision** and evangelize best practices.

- Interacted with other teams proactively providing feedback on the difficulty/feasibility of the planned features.

- **Optimized** page load-time and SEO ranking through minification, caching, selective loading, changes in front-end architecture, usage of subdomain-per-asset CDNs, sprite and image compression, etc.

- Identified, debugged and fixed **live-site issues** (`Splunk` , `Nagios` , `AWS monitoring` , `Google Analytics` , etc.)

Sr. Web Developer & Tech Lead at Optimum Solutions (Standard Chartered Bank) in Singapore, Jan - Oct 2012

Optimum Solutions is a Singaporean mid-size IT consultant company. SCB is a global bank with branches in 70 countries over 80,000 employees

Worked on the RMWB (Relation Manager WorkBench) project for Standard Chartered Bank. Our responsibility was to develop and ship the front-end of the application the corporate customers would use.

- **Integrated an already existing web application** from a third-party vendor following given designs and using `HTML` , `CSS` , `JavaScript` and `JSPs` into the RMWB portal which also grouped information from CreditMate and MicroStrategy Systems in a web-based interface. Also developed web services to expose data from the backend with `Java` (Spring).
- **Conducted technical interviews** for Web Developer and Web Designer roles.
- **Led implementation**, Quality Control, bug tracking and feature planning for the project.
- Was the **point of contact** between the Business and the team.

Analyst at BBVA in Madrid, Sep 2010 - Dec 2011

BBVA is the second-largest Spanish bank with more than 100,00 employees around the world

Worked on the Mentor project at Wholesale Banking & Asset Management, Global Risk Unit. Mentor was a web-based project to integrate, unify, organize and report all the unit's risk data from diverse systems with different data outputs.

- Helped **design and code the project's foundations** from scratch (Maven config files, project file structure, initial setup).
- **Developed a complex parser** for a legacy system output (Algorithmics) making exhaustive use of Regular Expressions to translate the output to comprehensive, coherent JPA models.
- **Designed and implemented a web-based user-facing interface** with `JSP` , `HTML` and `JavaScript` (`jQuery` , `Ajax` , async plugin loading).
- **Led and oversaw the front-end development** and ensured best practices were followed.
- Interacted with business stakeholders to gather requirements and design new features.

Developer at Safelayer Secure Communications in Barcelona, Feb 2009 - Sep 2010

Safelayer is an IT security company with ~50 workers

Invented, designed and implemented a proof of concept of gOTP, a novel two-factor authentication system which combined the robustness of One Time Passwords and the easily-remembered Graphical Passwords. The project was initially developed as a joint R&D Final Degree Project at UPC (see below) and Safelayer company, to become a product of the latter.

- iPhone Application as the client. Developed with `Objective-C` , `Cocoa Touch Framework` , `Xcode` .
- `Grails` (Groovy on Rails) application as the server. Used `Groovy` , `Java` , `ant` , `Maven` , `SVN` , `MySQL` , `ExtJS` (Sencha), `Web Services` .

Education

Computer Engineering, 2004-2009 at Barcelona School of Informatics (FIB), Technical University of Catalonia (UPC), Barcelona (Spain)

Degree + MSC. Graduated with Honors in the final Degree project "**A Secure Authentication System via OTP and Graphical Password (http://goo.gl/tkahus)**"

Other courses

- **Startup Engineering**, 2013 at Coursera (Stanford University)
- **Spring Training**, 2011 at SpringSource University
- **iPhone Application Programming**, 2009 at iTunesU (Stanford University)

Additional Information

- **Languages**: Native **Spanish** and **Catalan** speaker. Full Professional Proficiency in **English**.
- **Referrals** available on my LinkedIn page
- My two **passions** are:
  - **Photography**: Have won some prizes, had pictures featured in several editorials (e.g. 500px editors choice) and contributed to charitable events by auctioning my pictures and reaching high valuations. **My portfolio (http://500px.com/gamell)**
  - **Traveling**: Have traveled to more than 35 countries and continuously thinking where to go next.