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Professional Experience

Senior Software Consultant

01/2012 – Present

Tiny Ninjas

Client - Groups360

Responsibilities: Replace a legacy application that had issues with accuracy, speed and maintainability and provide a corporate platform to build future applications on. The primary feature was searching and the new application improved the worst case performance speed from 30 minutes to 10 seconds. User confidence also went up because the results were considered to be more accurate. The new platform is now being used by 3 different applications.

Highlights:

- Designed and implemented a microservices architecture to support Angular front-end applications that used a custom OAuth2 provider for authentication and a JSON Web Token (JWT) token-based authorization to communicate between services.

- Built a query builder that generated efficient postgres queries in Ruby from the dozen optional parameters that could be provided by the user to provide dynamic search with a custom scoring algorithm.

- Established caching patterns using Memcached, Postgres and ETags to keep most inter-service requests below 5ms.

Tools used: Ruby 2.2, Rails 4.2, RSpec, Jasmine, Postgresql, Memcached, Elasticsearch, Redis

Client - Kinitro/Elpis²

Responsibilities: Establish team practices including introducing Continuous Integration, RSpec/Jasmine testing patterns, RESTful apis, and one-touch deployment in order to scale team beyond the founders. Develop features to prepare the application for non-pilot customers.

Highlights:

- Built a modular framework with Rails/JS for user dashboard “widgets”. This allowed for the rapid development of new widgets and established patterns so that all widgets would be implemented in a similar style.

- Built an object-oriented JS chart library on top of Highcharts to make it easy to add dynamic charts to the application quickly. It included a number of components that provided parameters for the chart data queries and would refresh all relevant components using the Observer pattern when the user changed parameters in the UI.
- Created a tool that allowed for easy sharing of large volumes of test data amongst developer machines and non-production environments using Rake tasks and Amazon S3.

Tools Used: Ruby 2.1, Rails 4.1, RSpec, Jasmine, Postgresql, Cassandra, handlebars.js, Sass

Client - Teknetex/OnlifeHealth

Responsibilities: Define architecture and implement the conversion of an existing .net member portal solution targeting small custom clients to a Ruby on Rails platform targeting large health plans with configuration driven by a product team.

Highlights:

- Built a javascript library for taking configuration-defined surveys. The library consumes a REST API backed by Rails and MongoDB. The API supports a cross-domain implementation, all modern browsers and Internet Explorer 8+.
- Created all chef and capistrano scripts to deploy a new service-oriented architecture to virtual private cloud.
- Established patterns for testing javascript with jasmine and including those tests in the continuous integration environment.
- Co-lead for the team of 12 developers including on-site, vendor and remote members across three organizations.
- Wrote an object-oriented library for building daemons for file-watching and monitoring RabbitMQ queues and released as a gem. (https://rubygems.org/gems/daemon_objects)
- Co-wrote a library to manage attributes that need historical tracking. It uses a MongoDB-backed web service, but is written to support implementations in other persistence mechanisms. (<https://rubygems.org/gems/plyushkin>)
- Design database schema for relational and non-relational data stores.

Tools Used: Ruby on Rails, MongoDB, RabbitMQ, Redis, Memcached, RSpec, Jasmine, underscore.js, sinon.js, handlebars.js, jQuery, TeamCity, Postgresql, Microsoft SQL Server, Sass

Client – Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Responsibilities: Gather requirements and implement a website (<http://www.communityresearchpartners.net>) for connecting non-profit leaders with university researchers. The objective was to build the site in 6 weeks in order to submit it for consideration in a Health 2.0 Developer Challenge. The site was delivered on time and won an Honorable Mention in the Prototype Category.

Highlights:

- Incorporate geocoder and Google maps into location-based searches
- Customized foreman gem to integrate customized forum requirements into authenticated site.

Tools Used: Ruby on Rails, Postgresql, RSpec, Jasmine, jQuery, Heroku, Sass, Amazon S3

Architect / Team Lead / Consultant

06/2009 – 01/2012

Zycron

Client - Healthways

Responsibilities: Design scalable pilot applications that are stable and quick to market. Make technology decisions to support that goal. Mentor senior development resources on new technologies that were implemented.

Highlights:

- Led team that created a public-facing websites (www.vitalitycity.com, www.bluezonesproject.com) using Ruby on Rails, Windows Server 2003 and SQL Server 2005. The application is heavily integrated with internal and external JSON, SOAP, and REST web services including Facebook, S3, Wordpress, etc.
- Migrated rails sites from Windows to RedHat Enterprise Linux using Apache/Passenger. Built configuration scripts using Chef to automate deployment of servers.
- Emphasize team-wide Behavior-Driven and Test-Driven development approaches for ruby, javascript and .net code.
- Designed an architecture for a .net solution using principles of CQRS which made implementing new features simple and easy to unit test.
- Introduced NHibernate to replace existing data access solution. This allowed the team to implement a richer domain model as well as being able to focus on business needs instead of infrastructure.
- Introduced a one-click deployment process that allowed the application to be deployed to any environment, including production, with less than 2 minutes of downtime.
- Designed and implemented continuous database integration process using Ruby on Rails migrations, git hooks and bash scripts into a large .net solution which simplified the coordination of the development team.
- Implemented Scrum development process to support business needs for frequent releases and fluid requirements. Work with business owners to maintain a groomed backlog, schedule releases and prioritize work for two-week sprints.

Tools Used: Ruby on Rails, git, cucumber, rspec, jasmine, jQuery, redis, TeamCity, C# 3.5 and 4.0, ASP.net MVC, WinForms, NHibernate, NUnit, moq, Castle Windsor, WCF, Microsoft SQL Server

Open Source

DaemonObjects (https://github.com/craigisrael/daemon_objects)

A library that helps write daemons in ruby with an object-oriented approach.

Plyushkin (<https://github.com/starkin/plyushkin>)

ActiveRecord extensions for tracking and accessing historical data changes.

Education

B.S. Recording Industry Management, cum laude
Middle Tennessee State University