Derek Black

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EDUCATION

Kansas State University

Manhattan, KS

Master of Science

• Areas of Study: Control Theory, Mechatronics, and Software Development

• Thesis: Development and feasibility of economical hardware and software in control theory application

Kansas State University

Mahattan, KS

Bachelor of Science - Mechanical Engineering

Dec. 2014

May 2017

EXPERIENCE

Altec

Roanoke, VA

Staff Controls Developer

Aug 2017 - Present

Derrick and Crane Software

- Led and completed multiple major software releases for Altec derricks that added critical features need by Altec customers and other Altec engineers/associates.
- As a lead developer on multiple projects, have mentored developers on best practices, tooling, and conducted multiple design
- Developed fully contained system for lanyard detection that syncs state via CAN with other ECUs on Altec Cranes. Protects operators from engaging in unsafe work practices by preventing unit motion and engaging visual and audible alarms.
- Developed software I/O mapping system for Altec derricks that allowed other Altec associates to more easily deploy custom unit applications without relying on special development and firmware re-releases, saving Altec countless man-hours across multiple teams and led to quicker product releases to Altec customers.
- Aided in development of Derrick auto-calibration system that runs proprietary algorithm to detect function start-of-movement without manual intervetion, resulting in quicker unit ship-outs.
- Integrated rotation interlock system that performs zone calculations based on feedback from CAN encoders into the Derrick product line, aiding in safer unit usage for Altec customers.

Web Development

• Wrote and released multiple web pages leveraging HTML and Bootstrap for Altec's AXIS service tool. Pages are utilized and interacted with by customers, service technicians and other Altec associates across multiple product lines.

Internal Applications and Application Development

- Released multiple internal tools and applications targeted at MATLAB/Simulink that saved developers hundreds of hours of development time.
- Deployed, developed, and managed internal application with MATLAB that enabled multiple teams within the Altec controls department to release, distribute, and aid with version management of internally developed tools.
- Designed logic with Python's pandas/numpy with datasets pulled via SQL/Amazon Athena to generate customer machine metrics and gather insights for product enhancements.
- Developed an LMAP (Load Moment Area Protection) validation application for Altec product engineering using Python with usage of Kvaser's canlib, Flask and a vanilla javascript front end to help automate manual testing of equipment.
- Used Python to develop web page release and staging tool that integrates with SVN and an SQLite instance to help speed up deployment for the Altec AXIS service tool.

Kansas State University

Manhattan, KS

Lab Instructor - Control of Mechanical Systems

Aug. 2016 - Aug. 2017

• Prepared and delivered 45 minute lab lectures for a class size of 30+ students

Projects

CAN-DBC Open source library deployed via NPM written in Typescrip that aids in the parsing of Vector's ASCII based translation file used to apply identifying names, scaling, offsets, and defining information, to data transmitted within a CAN frame. github.com/bit-dream/can-dbc

Cocktail Hour Small web app that generates uniquely crafted cocktails receipes based on keywords such as artist, album names, or events. Front end developed with React/NextJS with Chakra UI. Backend written with Python utilizing FastAPI and Spacy for word vector similarity score ranking. Deployed with Docker and DigitalOcean. cocktailhour.tk

Programming Skills

Languages: MATLAB, Python, Javascript, Typescript, Simulink, SQL, LATEX

Technologies/Other: React, Next, Stateflow, CANape, HTML, CSS, Bootstrap, CAN, git, SVN