The Early Years

I was born June 8, 1971, in Columbus, GA, to middle-class parents who worked hard to provide myself and my younger brother Jarrod the best they could. My dad was a Civil Engineer who traveled weekly for Southern Railroad. We were heavily into sports, and my parents and extended family were always there to support us. My mother and her sister worked in Civil Service at Ft. Benning. My grandfather retired as a US Army Sgt and finished his working career in Civil Service at Ft. Benning as well. My other grandfather was a decorated police officer who served for over 35 years as a Lieutenant for the Columbus Police Dept. Many ask if I am a “military brat,” and my answer is always “no.”

As a student, I excelled from Elementary school through High School as a member of the National Honor Society. I played baseball and football for Columbus High School, and even though I received scholarship offers to play baseball in college, I knew I’d never make a career in the sport. As an engineer, my dad played a big part in my choice of Georgia Tech to pursue an engineering degree. My college years were tough. Studying Mechanical Engineering, working part-time, and competing nationally in Racquetball consumed all my time.

Career

After six years of college, I got a break. I got a job as a Field Service Engineer for a German-based Electronics/Software company. I spent nine years traveling the country full-time installing Printing Presses. I had no background in electronics other than a car stereo hobby, and I learned all my skills on the job. It took about two years to become an expert on the hardware side, including power distribution, relay logic, VFDs, pneumatics, etc. During that time, I married and had two children, Jacob and Hudson. They are now 17 and 22 years old, respectively! For the last 7-8 years, I’ve focused mainly on the software side, such as PLCs, HMIs, SCADA, etc., and I no longer have to travel full-time. I work as a Controls Support Engineer for Vanderlande, a Netherlands-based OEM for sorting equipment for numerous customers such as Airports, Warehouses, Amazon, and Walmart.

Return to School

Not long after I began working at Vanderlande, I saw a shift in the industry away from low-level controls (PLCs) to high-level controls (PC-based). I found myself having to reach out to software engineers far too often and decided to do something about that. I remarried, and my wife, Crystal, helped motivate me to return to school. I’m now pursuing a bachelor’s degree in IT at Kennesaw State University to learn new skills that will benefit my career. After two years at KSU, I'm very familiar with much of what I’m studying due to my experience. I thoroughly enjoyed the two Java classes I’ve taken, and currently, I’m studying Web Development, which is entirely new to me. It’s already making a difference in my career. I’m much more comfortable and skilled at studying code written in high-level languages, and I look forward to learning more.

Welcome to my first webpage! This website serves as my project submission to a Web Development course I’m taking at Kennesaw State University. Three milestones must be met over the next several weeks, so this is a work in progress. I’ll continuously update the site during that time and experiment with new concepts I learn along the way.

At the top of each page are links to Home (this page), About, and Contact. The Home page serves as an introduction, and I will also add notes here whenever I make any significant changes. The About page includes personal information about myself and some background on my skills and goals. The Contact page includes my contact info and a contact form to submit if you’d like to send me a message.

Thank you for visiting my page, and I welcome any feedback. Enjoy!