CRAIG BUCHEK

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Summary

- Software engineer with 15+ years of experience, plus 10+ years IT experience.
- Agile player-coach with a proven track record of mentoring and cultivating talent, transforming teams and team members into the best versions of themselves.
- Experienced Ruby on Rails web developer with strong devops and automation skills.

Highlights

- Continuously improving how teams work - including processes, technical practices, and automation.
- Mentored developers in Agile methodologies and Java programming.
- Active member of developer community, frequently speaking at conferences and local user groups.

Professional Experience

Staff Software Engineer at DebtBook (2022 - 2024)

- Built web app to manage financial accounting for local governments.
  - Maintained and built functionality for management of public debt, leases, and software subscriptions.
  - Ensured compliance with government accounting standards (GASB, FASB).
- Transformed engineering practices to meet the needs of a quickly growing startup.
  - Focused on building maintainable, reliable, scalable, and performant code.
  - Improved processes, workflow, and automation.
- Promoted advanced technical practices among the engineering team.
  - Provided code reviews, ensuring quality and providing learning opportunities.
  - Mentored junior developers.
- Led several large projects, making design and architectural decisions.
- Grew team from 4 to 25 developers in 18 months.
  - Interviewed and assessed candidates.
  - Streamlined, documented, and automated onboarding process.

Tech Stack: Ruby, Rails, Sidekiq, JavaScript, React, Docker Compose, Bash shell, PostgreSQL, GitLab

Staff Software Engineer at True Link Financial (2022)

- Built web app to manage financial services.
  - Management of restrictions on pre-paid debit cards.
  - Investment tracking for pooled special-needs trusts.
- Promoted advanced technical practices among the development team.
  - Presentation on how to improve testing.
- Resolved issues with receiving duplicate transaction notifications.

Tech Stack: Ruby, Rails, RSpec, AWS, React

Principal Software Engineer at Binary Noggin (2019 - 2021)

- Built web back-end to manage electronic poll books and aggregate data.
- Guided development team to make improvements to processes and technical practices.
  - Agile practices: retrospectives, TDD, pair programming, Kanban.
- Improved application performance, in preparation for traffic spike due to presidential election.
  - Added telemetry/metrics to track performance.
  - Optimized MySQL queries and indexes.
  - Employed background jobs and batching.
  - Tuned Kubernetes settings for scaling pods to meet load demands.
  - Implemented load shedding.
- Upgraded application from Rails 4.2 to 6.0.
- Automated infrastructure build-out.

Tech Stack: Ruby, Rails, Sidekiq, RSpec, jQuery, Kubernetes, AWS, Terraform

Sr. Software Developer at Weedmaps (2019)

- Built web app for a retail marketplace in a fast-growing industry.
  - Management of retailers and products.
  - Categorization and tagging of products.
- Implemented and consumed APIs within a complex service-oriented architecture.
- Promoted Agile practices within team.

Tech Stack: Ruby, Rails, Grape, RSpec, Sidekiq, CoffeeScript, jQuery

Sr. Software Developer at F5 Networks (2017 - 2019)

- Developed web app for network services (load balancers, proxies, DDoS prevention).
- Upgraded web app to Rails 5.0.
- Promoted Agile practices within team.

Tech Stack: Ruby, Rails, Ansible, Nginx, Sidekiq, CoffeeScript, Vue.js

Engineering Manager, Software Engineer at CenturyLink Cloud (2015 - 2017)

- Managed a team of 6, implementing WordPress as a cloud service.
  - Boosted team productivity from 17 to 60 "points".
- Managed a team of 14, deploying Cloud Foundry clusters.
- Built a monitoring system for cloud servers.
- Promoted Agile practices within teams.

Tech Stack: Ruby, Sensu, Grape microservices, Docker, Ansible, Nginx, Bash, Kubernetes, RabbitMQ

Previous

- Designed, implemented, and deployed large-scale web applications.
  - Social networking and data-gathering site for patients with type 1 diabetes.
    - Provisioned load-balanced servers for 200,000 concurrent users.
  - Asset management system for a large company (12 million digital assets).
  - Developed, maintained, and documented APIs for several mobile client applications.
  - Contributed to rewrite of a hospital system's patient portal.
  - Wrote application for patients to find doctors by specialty.
    - Developed in 5 weeks, on time and on budget.
  - Reduced code size and complexity to simplify on-going site maintenance.
- Consulted at a large corporation (7000 employees) to teach developers how to implement Agile practices.
  - Implemented pair programming, Kanban, TDD, refactoring, continuous integration.
  - Mentored developers to improve their Java skills.
- Guided companies in establishing technical and process improvements.
  - Embedded within development teams as Agile player-coach.
  - Promoted Agile/Lean methodologies to increase team performance.
    - Instituted retrospectives, pair programming, Kanban, TDD, BDD, acceptance testing, refactoring, CI.
- Built an internal cloud infrastructure, automating deployment of Java applications.
  - Implemented web control panel in Python.
- Designed and implemented web applications for small businesses and non-profits.

Tech Stacks: Ruby, Rails, RSpec, Python, Bash shell, JavaScript, jQuery, Java, HTML, HAML, CSS, SASS, F5 load balancers, Capybara, Cucumber, Jasmine, Cucumber-JVM, Selenium, Jenkins, JUnit, MongoDB, ElasticSearch, Devise, CoffeeScript

Education

- Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (Terre Haute, IN) - Computer Science major

Community Involvement

- STL Tech Slack - Co-admin
- STL Ruby - Co-organizer
- STL Polyglots - Co-founder
- This Agile Life podcast - Co-host (2013-2019)
- Roy Clay Sr. Tech Impact program - Instructor, Mentor

Conference Talks

- RubyConf - 2014, 2015, 2016, 2024
- RailsConf - 2015, 2018, 2019
- Madison+ Ruby - 2015, 2024
- Blue Ridge Ruby - 2024
- Rocky Mountain Ruby - 2024
- Agile Alliance Technical Conference - 2017