

# William Desmarais

entrepreneurial ruby developer and team leader

## contact

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## languages

Ruby, JavaScript,  
ES6, C++  
CSS, SCSS, HTML5

## frameworks

Ruby on Rails  
Capybara, Cucumber,  
RSpec, Selenium  
React, Redux  
Chai, Enzyme, Karma,  
Mocha

## tools

git, JIRA, Rally, Trello,  
AgileZen, Kanbanery  
kubernetes,  
aws ecosystem

## education

BS, Computer Science  
Hartwick College  
Oneonta, NY  
Minor in Mathematics

## experience

### ~ Wellist

*Head of Engineering*

Boston, Massachusetts

April, 2015 – Present

**Wellist.com** – Built team and product, taking company through series A funding

- Worked with product, occasionally owning product, as we iterated to find market fit
- Delivered Wellist 1.0, providing customizable platform to serve oncology, cardiology, gerontology, ob/gyn, transplant and more
- Architecture: Amazon AWS, k8s, ruby on rails (api), 2 es6 functional react/redux frontends, landing pages and ipad-based kiosks
- Additionally responsible for hiring, recruiting, HIPAA compliance, and company IT
- Company won Mass TLC Innovative Tech of the year, and 50 on Fire - Health Tech, as well as Company of the Year (Silver Stevie) and a Diversity Leadership award (Rock Health)

### ~ PayPal

*Software Engineering Manager – Three Teams, 17 People*

Boston, Massachusetts

March, 2012 – March 2015

Responsible for three application development scrum teams

**Campaign Manager** – Advertising management in RoR with Redis, MySQL, and RabbitMQ

- Delivered a 1.0, replacing an unmaintainable legacy system
- App focus on enabling a small ops team to manage millions in high-value ads
- Delivered REST API and pub/sub integration interfaces
- Fought for promotions, critical talent recognition, and hires - hired four, recognized four, promoted five

**Whiteglove** – Streamlined Advertising product creation tool in RoR

- Delivered a 1.0 of a Ruby on Rails app with Angular front-end
- Developed a team of junior engineers into RoR professionals producing their first app
- Managed development/relationships with Northeastern Co-op program participants for team growth

**Shared Services** – Geolocation and assorted related place-centered services in Java

- Led the team for six months as they reorganized, with a focus on streamlining
- Identified new team leads as one too-large team was broken into more rational chunks
- Improved team through Personnel Improvement Plans and hiring

**Boston Lead, Bar Raisers** – Interview training and support for hiring managers

**Agile Facilitator** – Focused on retrospectives, supported teams' continuous improvement efforts

### ~ Proventys, Inc.

*Software Engineer*

Newton, Massachusetts

March, 2011 – January, 2012

**Proventys CDS** – Clinical decision support software in RoR with Redis and Postgres

- Rails 3.1 app to provide clinical decision support for treatment of cancer
- Innovative system for authoring of clinical content with a ruby dal and git
- Extreme/Pair programming in an agile/kanban environment
- Design and implementation of features, with contributions to architecture
- Heavy TDD/BDD with spec, factory girl, and cucumber

**~ Tribune Company**

Chicago, Illinois

*Mobile Software Engineer*

January, 2010 – March, 2011

**PingPing.com** – Social messaging and news sharing with RoR and Erlang

- Contributed design and implementation of geo location support
- Implemented graphic design changes
- Overhauled data ingestion systems

**Application Middleware** – Java Play server supporting Tribune mobile apps

- Software supports iPhone apps for Tribune properties like the LA Times, Chicago Tribune, Baltimore Sun, etc.
- Implemented certificate management system for transition to a one-server architecture
- Upgraded push for iOS devices to support latest Apple options

**iOS Feature Development** – contributed features to various iOS product lines

- Contributed image gallery feature, hiding sections with no associated galleries
- Implemented client-side obfuscation of API keys

**Innovations Team** – Winner, one of five teams to compete for Tribune innovations prize

- Worked with Chief Innovation Officer at Tribune to devise new approach to serving a news vertical
- Worked with team to create video presentation and tech demos for the new product

**~ Pilsen Labs, Inc.**

Chicago, Illinois

*Founder*

October 2010 – June, 2014

**Anno** – A history and memory game for iOS

- Build card authoring system in RoR to provide game content
- Authored majority of the game content
- Contributed features to iOS app
- Ran marketing efforts

**~ WitSaid Studios, Inc.**

Chicago, Illinois and Andover, Massachusetts

*Founder*

January 2008 – March, 2012

Company founded to house personal projects and provide consulting to young technology companies

**~ Novarra, Inc.**

Itasca, Illinois

*Software Engineer*

June, 2005 – December, 2008

**nWeb** – Client for displaying content-rich web pages on cell phones. C++ for ARM-based devices with the Qualcomm BREW runtime

- Design and development of client code for BREW cell phone platform. Implemented encryption technologies, core HTTP, caching, streaming video support, image transcoding, and various UI features
- Code audition and rework which reduced on-handset footprint by 15%
- Core redesigns of product to support additional functionality
- Occasional business travel included trip to England to manage build-out of two data centers to bring Vodafone UK on-line.
- Part of evaluation team for new software tools, including source control and bug tracking
- Responsible for interfacing with in-house and third-party test organization. Triaged bugs for severity and guided submissions through NSTL

References available upon request

This document, and other versions of this document can be found at [github.com/bosoxbill/cv](https://github.com/bosoxbill/cv)