

William Desmarais

hands-on technical leadership

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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

Boston, Massachusetts

Head of Engineering – Single Team, Up To 6 People

April, 2015 – Present

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

- Worked closely with, and sometime led, product organization to iterate early-stage product to find market fit
- Hands-on in code, architecture, and all phases of product development
- Delivered Wellist 1.0, providing customizable platform to serve oncology, cardiology, gerontology, ob/gyn, transplant and more
- Architected platform using 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
- 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

Boston, Massachusetts

Software Engineering Manager – Three Teams, 17 People

March, 2012 – March 2015

Responsible for three application development scrum teams

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

- 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
- Reorganized teams; identified new team leaders to more efficiently organize one large team into two focused teams
- 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.

Newton, Massachusetts

Software Engineer

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 DSL and git
- Extreme/Pair programming in an agile/kanban environment
- Design and implementation of features, with contributions to architecture
- Heavy TDD/BDD with rspec, 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 geolocation support
- Implemented graphic design changes
- Overhauled data ingestion systems

Application Middleware – Java Play server supporting Tribune mobile apps

- Developed software supporting 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

- Built 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

- Designed and developed client code for BREW cell phone platform. Implemented encryption technologies, core HTTP, caching, streaming video support, image transcoding, and various UI features
- Reworked native code to reduce on-handset footprint by 15%
- Core redesigns of product to support additional functionality
- Managed build-out of two data centers to bring Vodaphone 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