Brian Hilst
Software Consultant / Architect / Engineer

CONTACT

Purposeful Software, LLC
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PROFILE

I am a versatile, full-stack, software engineer and architect. My specialty is responsive web and mobile applications running on an AWS backend. I have experience on a wide range of front and backend technology stacks. Please see my full skill set below for more information.

I own and operate Purposeful Software LLC, a Washington licensed and insured business.

Purposeful Software is dedicated to bringing web or mobile application visions to life. I bring a unique blend of passion and experience to every project, whether you are a small non-profit organization, a Fortune 500 company, or somewhere in-between. I take the time to understand your needs and determine how best to deliver it within your budget and timeframe. My depth and breadth of experience will help choose the optimal approach for your unique product and provide expert assistance from design to deployment.

WORK

SnapGig Inc – Spokane, WA

Software Architect and Senior Developer • 2018 – Present

SnapGig is a bootstrapped startup and marketplace for the gig economy.

I was hired to design and develop SnapGig's primary product, a responsive web app that serves as a marketplace to connect service providers with buyers. I also am building the product's mobile version in React Native (currently in development).

Tech stack: React JS/Typescript, AWS Amplify, AppSync, DynamoDB, Cognito, S3, SES, SNS

Sears Home Services - Seattle, WA

Software Architect and Senior Developer • 2015 - 2018

Sears Home Services provides appliance repair, home improvement, and maintenance services to 7M customers every year.

In this role I designed and built multiple iOS apps in Swift and Ionic used by Sears Home Services' 7000+ field technicians for routing, navigation, service order management, accessing service manuals, and other functionality. I also built a Java web application that lets internal staff manage the mobile product, adjust pricing, and access field data.

Tech stack: Swift, Angular, Ionic, Java, Spring Framework, AWS, PostgreSQL

SamePage Health - Seattle, WA

Lead Architect/Developer • 2014 - 2015

SamePage Health was an early stage angel-funded startup that provided a SaaS for professionals treating patients with multiple behavioral health and medical conditions.

I served in a de facto Director of Development role managing a team of two full-time developers in building responsive web-based tools and REST APIs for AngularJS and mobile clients.

Tech stack: Ruby on Rails, AngularJS, Postgres, AWS, REST APIs

Netmotion Wireless - Seattle, WA

Senior Consultant • 2013 - 2014

Netmotion Software provides products and services to support mobile workforces.

At Netmotion I designed and implemented a mapping web app that displayed mobile device connectivity and tracking data used to troubleshoot mobile workforces (e.g. police, fire departments). This product was delivered and released on schedule.

Tech stack: ASP.NET, Javascript, Bing Maps, REST, C#, MySQL

Avalara Inc - Seattle, WA

Chief Architect / Principal Software Developer • 2004 - 2013

Avalara (NYSE: AVLR) provides a SaaS product for automated tax compliance. The company went public in 2018.

At Avalara I was a member of the founding team, serving as a software architect and the principal developer of their industry-leading SaaS product that handled over a million transactions per day. I rebuilt the initial prototype VB.NET SaaS product for scale in C# with additional SDKs for .NET and Java. I also had hiring and management responsibility for a distributed team in the US and India. My final role at Avalara focused on leading development of the tax content management system that managed geospatial, tax rate, and rule data for the US and EU.

Tech stack: .NET, C#, Java, Microsoft SQL Server

Rainwave Technologies - Bellevue, WA

Owner / Principal Software Developer • 1996 - 2004

Rainwave was my independent technical consulting firm.

My project focus during this time included building web and desktop clients for companies that included Autonomy Interwoven and FrontOffice Technologies.

Adobe Systems / Aldus Corp - Seattle, WA

Principal Software Developer • 1990 - 1996

Adobe (NASDAQ: ADBE) is a Fortune 500 software provider.

At Adobe I was a Team Lead for both Core Technologies and Pagemaker Graphics, contributing to the development of multiple products including PageMaker and other desktop graphics applications.

SKILLS

LANGUAGES

TypeScript, JavaScript, Java, Swift, Ruby, C#

FRAMEWORKS/LIBRARIES

React, Angular, Node.js, Spring, Play, Rails, .NET, Stripe, Material-UI, Bootstrap

DATABASE

DynamoDB, PostgreSQL, Microsoft SQL Server, MySQL

CLOUD

AWS (Amplify, AppSync, DynamoDB, RDS, Lambda, Elastic Beanstalk/EC2, S3, Cognito, Route53...), Serverless Framework

MOBILE

Swift, React Native, Ionic

TOOLS

JetBrains WebStorm, IntelliJ IDEA, XCode, Eclipse, RubyMine, Visual Code & Visual Studio

TESTING

Jest, Cypress, Jasmine, Mocha, JUnit, BrowserStack, Postman

DEVOPS

AWS Amplify, Docker, Codeship, Gradle, Maven, Jenkins, Ansible, Papertrail, PagerDuty, Splunk, New Relic, Google Analytics

COLLABORATION

GitHub, Jira, Trello, Slack, LucidChart, Google Docs

EXPERTISE

ARCHITECTURE

I have designed commercial software and systems from small business to enterprise applications scalable to millions of transactions per day. I am a proponent of clean architecture, micro-services, and on-demand, scalability using cloud services such as AWS Lambda.

PROJECT LEADERSHIP

I have hired and led teams ranging from small startups to large, globally distributed development teams.

DOMAINS

Mapping, Data-visualization, Workforce automation, Service Marketplaces, SaaS, Document management, E-commerce, Transaction/sales tax, Health care

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

A broad computer science foundation with specialization in algorithms, artificial intelligence, and computer graphics.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Conferences, online courses, meetups, and books

Online courses in React, Angular, Typescript, iOS/Swift, Java
Recent Books: Clean Architecture by Robert Martin and Start Small, Stay Small by Rob Walling.

OTHER

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer software development for non-profits

Mentor for robotics team and AP Computer Science

Volunteer for organizations such as Young Life, Summer in the USA, Bainbridge Youth Orchestra, KidsUp! Community Playground, Rebuilding Together