Byron Katz

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Projects

Property Product Suite, CoStar

A web portal providing brokers and vendors access to a large commercial real estate database.

Secret Server, Thycotic

A web application that manages account access information such as passwords and usernames.

REAP, Renaissance Nomad Software

An Android app to analyze residential real estate investments.

Favrcafe, Renaissance Nomad Software

A website to trade favors and build reputation points.

Technologies

Languages

Java, C#, JavaScript, TypeScript, SQL, C, Python, Scheme, Ada, Haskell, Unix shell scripting

Operating systems and databases

Linux, Windows, FreeBSD, Mac, Android, SQLServer, MariaDB (MySql), PostgresQL

Frameworks and protocols

HTTP, ReactJS, NPM, NodeJS, XML, JSON, SOAP, RESTful web services, .Net, CSS, SASS, MVC, WCF, OOP

Companies

Senior Technical Consultant

June 2017 to present

Coveros Inc. - Northern Virginia

- Demonstrated value of careful refactoring, addition of unit tests, and comments on legacy code. Doing so uncovered multitudes of long-standing defects.
- Rewrote portion of code in Healthcare.gov that generated tables of data on the notices to customers showing their current status and suggested next steps. While doing so, took the time to become familiar with the domain, thereby discovering undefined requirements which led to greater precision from stakeholders.
- Involved with first development efforts on a new healthcare provider registration system for Medicare, called PECOS 2.0. Provided considerable technical guidance and mentoring in the subject areas of team process, data modeling, code quality, and devops.
- Refactored the data provisioning system to be independent of the main application, to allow greater versatility in different stages, as well as during the development cycle.

Senior Software Engineer

June 2015 to June 2017

CoStar Group - Washington, DC

- One of the pages was taking up to a minute to render using old, sluggish XML-XSLT technology. Rewrote using KnockoutJS and MVC REST-ful endpoints, causing average page loads to take less than a second, and for client-side sorting actions to be near instantaneous.
- In a series of lectures and workshops, taught Git to team.
- Researched techniques for rewriting our client-controlled report generator. After thoughtful vetting of many alternatives, suggested using HTML-to-PDF rendering for templated HTML. This is now used on all new reports.
- Provided assistance to systems team in starting to use Red Hat Enterprise Linux.
- One of the tools that we use for performance analysis indicated that there were many opportunities for improvements in our SQL queries. Two of us analyzed a variety of queries, taking them apart and rebuilding, to see where we could find optimizations for speed while maintaining correctness. We sped up the system 33%.
- Demonstrated the benefits of adding thoughtful comments throughout the code base to illuminate the way for maintenance programmers.

Senior Software Engineer Invision Inc. - Herndon, VA June 2014 to June 2015

- Responsible for demonstrating products to potential customers.
- Winning entry amongst three developers for algorithm to search encrypted text.
- Rewrote main CSV parser code was simplified and corrected, and only half the lines of code turned out to be necessary.
- Brought to the fore several critical security concerns.
- Designed, implemented, revised and refactored much of the business logic layer.
- Corrected bugs in existing native applications for iPhone and Android.

QA Team Lead

May 2010 to June 2012

Ekagra Software, contractor to National Cancer Institute - Bethesda, MD

Projects: Clinical Cancer Trials Suite, caCIS (Clinical Information Suite)

- Reported project status on weekly stakeholder meeting. Prepared monthly process reports on project and QA activity. Reviewed target goals, priorities, and QA standards with stakeholders.
- Rose to team lead after four months, due to my communication and technical skills, and my passion for quality software. Became responsible for tasking 5 QA engineers.
- Developed a variety of software tools to support work, such as one to analyze differences between Java property files.
- Built security-hardened Linux nodes on virtual machines for environment testing.

Education

University of Tennessee, Bachelor of Architecture, 2002 ISIS International Student Association, Semester abroad, Barcelona, Spain, 1999

Commendations

Byron seems to be able to strike the delicate balance of listening, thinking, and suggesting smart solutions to problems. He seems to be intent on leveling up our team members. Whether it's introducing new development tools such as Vi or other *nix commands, or going deep on Git and then teaching the rest of us what he learned, he seems to want to share his knowledge for the betterment of his peers. This philosophy is infectious and I would expect that other team members will be following his lead in learning a topic and teaching others.

He successfully delivered the rework of the Property survey page. As simple as that page may seem, it has a large set of small features that needed to be re-worked. The rework of the survey page had a dramatic effect on a number of user's experiences as previously, this page took minutes to render for clients with large survey lists. Now it takes a couple of seconds at most.

I would like to see Byron contribute to a large effort such as the reconceptualization of our web application structure. I'm not sure if Byron could lead this effort or simply contribute, but his way of thinking would guarantee a positive contribution.

Byron uses probably the most diverse set of tools on the team. Understands multiple tool chains including *nix based and leverages those as needed to optimize his workflow. Probably, if given time and given the opportunity, he would vastly improve the core product workflow.

- Joel Rumerman, manager while at CoStar Group

I highly recommend Byron Katz as a candidate for employment. Byron and I worked on the same team at the NCI Center for Bioinformatics. Byron's technical ability and contribution was very strong and coupled with his resourcefulness and unwavering persistence he set himself apart from all of his peers. He was not only affable, but extremely reliable and was adept with working with all levels - from technical colleagues to senior leadership. Byron would be a tremendous asset to any organization and has my highest recommendation.

- Steve Young, MBA, PMP, colleague at NCI

Byron has excellent communication skills, has solid working relationships and is extremely organized and detail oriented. I was able to rely on him in completing his assignments from typical to complex technical issues in a timely manner using good judgment with sound decisions and recommendations. He takes great pride in his work.

- Greg Botsch, manager while at John Portman And Associates