Charles Kirk

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Summary

A "get it done right the first time" full-stack engineer with over ten years of experience, I love to build systems that really help and impact end-users. In my experience, you can build the most performant, well-written application, but without complementary UI and UX, your users will not get the value you expect. I've been known to run small-but-critical teams of engineers while still keeping my "hands dirty" by tackling some of the most tricky engineering problems presented to the business. Currently, I'm interested in freelance problem-solving in the realm of workflow, operations and modern Web Application development.

Programming Languages

Ruby, PHP, Javascript

Frameworks

Rails, Ansible, Sinatra, ReactJS, Bootstrap, Webpack

Technologies

Amazon Web Services (most products,) Rackspace, CentOS, Ubuntu, Nginx, Apache, PHP-FPM, Passenger, ElasticSearch, LDAP/AD, MySQL, PostgreSQL

Tools

Git, Subversion, Bash, Vagrant, Jenkins, Ganglia, StackDriver

Experience

Director of Operations, Jellyvision, Chicago, IL. Oct 2012 - Present

Managed a team of operations engineers consisting of three linux systems engineers and three Rails engineers. Built an internal Portal to handle service provisioning, such as domains, SSL certificates, load balancers and configuring/scaling of servers. It also includes integration with JIRA, Jenkins, Git, SVN. Built out a content provisioning system allowing for non-technical users to produce content, build and deploy in one click.

Helped to re-envision our product's hosting strategy which led to savings of over $180,000 by moving from a large set of LAMP stacks to a three-region, always-on, highly available, horizontally scalable platform.

Interfaced with key vendors, such as SSL certificate providers in which I negotiated savings of $20,000 due to our bulk purchasing.

Built an HTML5 prototype of our existing core product to help speed development of new technologies along.

Other responsibilities included:

- First line of support for client issues
- Managing incidents and policies including disaster recovery, incident response and incident reports
- Helping architect the overall platform for new and existing products

Software Engineer, Pulse8, Newton Abbot, UK - July 2011 to Sep 2012:
- Building development tools to assist in workflow and deployments
- Centralized integration of APIs to manage residual income from markups of other services
- Integration with LLU broadband provider for an independent reseller portal including lookups, provisioning and scheduling of technicians via an automated website (pulse8broadband.co.uk)
- Performed upgrade of several PHP4 installations onto servers serving 750 websites+
- Managed Qmail and Postfix mail servers, including getting a mail server removed from blacklists after high volumes of spam were sent through a remote code injection vulnerability on a site.

Software Engineer, SpotOn Corporation, Devon, UK - 2010 November to 2011 July:
- Training for various high-profile clients
- Bespoke e-commerce development
- Integration with various 3rd party products such as mailing systems, postcode lookups and payment gateways
- Built new internal tools such as a help desk, online time tracking, and a production management system to manage clients

Database Developer, Digital Bootcamp, Chicago, IL - Nov 2008 to April 2009
- Developed a relational database schema for FileMaker used to manage classes and students
- Integrated "Student Management" system with mailing system for both Snail Mail and e-mail

Software Engineer, Where I've Been, LLC, Chicago, IL - June 2008 - November 2008
- Helped develop Facebook application (primary asset)
- Improved internal tooling, such as monitoring systems and business intelligence systems
- Built a Flickr scraper to download Creative Commons pictures by city for upcoming Facebook Connect integration

Founder, CodeeTech.com, Chicago, IL - 2005 to 2007:
- Built a content management system tailored for small businesses and marketed throughout Chicago
- Managed several design contractors

Freelance, Chicago, IL - 2003 to 2005:
- Built several personal websites, (blogs, resume sites)
- 15-website contract for a local Casting Agency's talent

References: *Available on request*