

Curtis Ruder

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Experience

Baker & O'Brien - Houston, TX

2017 – current

Software Product Manager

2020 - current

Became the first new software product manager in almost 20 years and absorbed all related responsibilities for the primary software business line for the firm. Set software strategy, vision, and marketing objectives and managed to eliminate several dependencies to deprecated technology during first year of ownership.

In addition to the technical aspects of software ownership, coordinate and own all existing, potential and new client facing interactions. Foster all external and internal client relationships, and coordinate billing activities. Developed internal performance metrics for quality and productivity and have driven drastic improvement in both resulting in improved customer satisfaction and improved return on investment for the firm.

On the financial side, was the first to create internal product valuation considering internal time commitment and opportunity cost, revenue related to licensing fees and consulting arrangements, and potential for growth / decline. Using more comprehensive metrics and understanding of value drivers, suggested and implemented several value improvement opportunities. In addition, create and present financial review and metrics on a quarterly basis to key stakeholders.

Engineering Consultant

2019 - current

Due to efficiency gains in data modeling efforts, became the first Refinery Modeling Specialist in company history to take an active role in multiple consulting assignments while maintaining core obligations related to data calibrations. Leveraging technical expertise, have been key member in many consulting assignments covering refinery specific assignments, litigation support, blending studies, and LP optimization opportunities.

In addition to client billing, continue to perform business development promoting both the software business line and the firm's consulting capabilities. Developed and gave presentation at widely attended industry conference in an effort to showcase the firm's core competencies.

Software Developer

2018 - current

Maintain, enhance, and troubleshoot desktop application PRISM™ which is used internally for consulting assignments and licensed externally to a variety of clients including multiple Fortune 500 companies. In addition to general oversight of the software and user support, led several software enhancement efforts:

- Major code base conversion from VB6 to VB.Net of 85,000 lines of code
- Eliminated 32-bit Microsoft Access in favor of SQLite
- Extended compatibility to support 64-bit MS Office
- Optimized runtime issues resulting in a nearly 80% runtime reduction
- Eliminated MS Office VBA in favor of a compiled XLL Add-In

In addition to the core responsibility specific to *PRISM™*, leveraged development capabilities to improve other aspects of the business:

- Automated repetitive data entry tasks leveraging both browser automation and direct HTTP requests
- Replaced multiple large MS Excel workbooks with SQLite database with custom UI
- Created linear programming UI and backend logic to complete multiple six figure consulting assignments

Refinery Modeling Specialist

2017 - current

Core responsibility is to create accurate operational model of every refinery in the U.S. and mimic their historical performance. Objective is to replicate the following elements for prior time periods:

- Where feedstocks were sourced
- How the facility operated
- Where products were distributed
- Estimation of facility financials
- What midstream infrastructure was used to supply feedstocks and distribute products

Data analysis is refinery specific and incorporates nearly 25,000 data points per analysis period. Results of modeling efforts are a primary revenue source for the firm, and the refinery models are leveraged for a variety of consulting assignments.

In addition to calibrating models, leveraged optimization capabilities and software proficiency to eliminate nearly 200-man hours per month from time commitment for the role. Previously a fulltime role with support required, the role now requires one person with one week per month commitment. Much of the improvement has leveraged technology, and in addition to being much more efficient, the calibration integrity is superior resulting in more satisfied clients and more accurate results.

Flint Hills Resources - Corpus Christi, TX

2012 - 2017

E&P Gasoline Blender

2016 - 2017

Primary responsibilities include weekly LP runs, setting buy/sell plan for gasoline components, calibrating gasoline recipes, and economic evaluations for projects related to gasoline.

During tenure as gasoline planner, identified historically unoptimized winter gasoline blending opportunity worth 12MM/yr, championed specification change worth 3.5MM/yr, overhauled gasoline LP to represent actual operation, developed and automated blending metrics and lookback process, and supported blend capability expansion worth 5.0MM/yr.

E&P LP Model Development

2015 - 2016

Primary responsibilities were accurately representing refinery LP oil flow, calibrating unit sub-models, and improving gasoline blending modeling.

For unit submodel calibration, successfully developed grassroots tools which pulled unit yield and variables data, scrubbed data for acceptance criteria, and used multivariant regression analysis to develop unit vectors for 5 hydrotreaters, 2 FCC, naphtha reformer, coker, and hydrocracker.

For gasoline blending improvement, successfully calibrated non-linear blending interaction coefficients for RVP, MON, and RON which improved predicted vs actual standard deviation by more than 2X.

Strategic Reliability Engineer**2013 - 2015**

Refinery area equipment strategy owner for FCC, HF alky, fixed bed alkylation, and Coker units. Responsibilities included failure mode analysis, equipment strategy development, and area turnaround work scoping.

Process Engineer**2012 - 2013**

Provided technical support for FCC and fixed bed alkylation unit. Created grassroots unit monitoring tools, automated monthly reports using VBA, and created frame work for whole unit PI representation which has since become base expectation for the unit Process Engineers

Became site Aspen HYSYS expert due to proficiency. Provided technical and managerial support as interim process engineering lead for a team of four Process Engineers

NCRA Refinery (CHS Inc) - McPherson, KS**2009 - 2012****Process Engineer****2009 - 2012**

Provided technical support for two crude units, light ends units, and HF alky feed treating. Supported a whole refinery turnaround event as the night catalyst loading coordinator for hydrocracker, exchanger cleanliness owner, and process engineering support for tray internal evaluation for multiple fractionators.

Technology

Skills

- | | | | |
|-------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| •C++ | •C# | •CLI | •CSS |
| •HTML | •HTTP | •Java | •Javascript |
| •JSON | •Linear Programming | •Relational Database | •SASS / SCSS |
| •SQL | •VB.Net | •VBA | •XML |

Tools

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------|
| •Aspen HYSYS | •Aspen PIMS | •Git | •LP Solve |
| •MS Office | •MySQL | •Oracle | •SQLite |
| •Subversion | •Visual Studio | •Visual Studio Code | |

Education

Fort Hays State University B.S. Computer Science (4.0 / 4.0)	2020 - 2022
Texas A&M – Corpus Christi MBA with Finance Concentration (3.9 / 4.0)	2016 - 2019
Kansas State University B.S. Chemical Engineering (3.6 / 4.0)	2004 - 2009