Derik Whittaker
Technology Leader

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Veteran Remote-First leader whose passion is to lead and inspire a diverse team of engineers, leveraging my extensive background, experience, and leadership skills. A servant leader, who believes in fostering an empowering, collaborative, and innovative environment.

- A dedicated servant leader with a proven track record of empowering and inspiring teams to achieve exceptional results through compassion, empathy, and collaborative guidance
- Highly skilled in bridging the gap between the technical and business realms, effectively translating complex concepts into actionable strategies for organizational success
- Seasoned, polyglot engineer with a comprehensive understanding of Object-Oriented Programming (OOP) and adeptness in various Design Patterns.
- Extensive expertise in Agile development methodologies, encompassing project planning/design and proficiency in Test Driven Development (TDD)
- Proficient in AWS Cloud Technologies including using IAC (Terraform) to Create, Maintain and Destroy application environments.
- An eager and adaptable learner, unafraid to venture beyond my comfort zone to expand my knowledge and expertise

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Experience

Rocket Mortgage / Technical Team Leader (Team Manager)
June 2017 - August 2023, Detroit MI (Remote)

Spearheaded a dynamic team of 7 software engineers, overseeing the seamless maintenance and enhancement of 3 vital applications utilized by internal engineering teams. Successfully achieved weekly production releases, balancing between new feature delivery and issue resolution.

The team created and championed a cloud awareness and monitoring application which provided business and technology leaders with awareness of up-to-the-minute account billings, compliance, and utilization details for over 500 AWS Cloud Accounts.

- Delivered new auditing capabilities in < 60 days to facilitate over 99% encryption attribution to satisfy OCOE legal compliance
- Delivered detailed cloud billing capability to raise awareness for cloud spend (trending, historical, and out of control) across the organization.
- Meet daily with key business stakeholders to understand and plan business objectives
- Led a team of engineers to transform a critical application due to shifting business requirements
- Part of multiple leadership mentoring programs inside the organization, mentoring 6 aspiring leaders during my tenure
- Cultivated a culture of inclusion, where every team member could bring their whole self to the team, where every team member had a voice that was heard and appreciated.

Skills: Cloud Native (AWS) * Node.js * Javascript * C# * React * Micorservices * Postgres * Git * CI/CD * Team Leadership * Communication * Mentoring * Agile Principles * SAFe Methodology

Clear Measure Inc / Principal Software Engineer II
October 2014 - June 2017, Austin TX (Remote)

Led development teams in various client engagements, overseeing the end-to-end delivery of client solutions. Thrived on the opportunity to combine my passions for coding and mentoring, playing a pivotal role in shaping successful project outcomes.

Contributed to multiple projects, across multiple verticals. Championed the implementation of standardized best practices, enabling our teams to consistently deliver high-quality code efficiently. This involved the establishment of comprehensive CI/CD pipelines using Team City and Octopus Deploy, click-to-build capabilities, as well as end-to-end testing to maintain exceptional project delivery standards.

- Worked with senior management to help define and scope out projects
- Collaborated with clients to design and implement solutions to help their businesses grow
- Worked with team members to ensure features were built to specification and meet our quality and design standards
- Met with our clients to gather their feedback as needed in order to better serve their needs

Skills: C# * ASP.NET MVC * Micorservices * CI/CD * MS SQL Server * Team Leadership * Mentoring * Agile Principles * Design Patterns * Git

Orgspan.com / Senior Engineer (Mobile Platform)
July 2013 - October 2014, Durham NC

Orgspan is a software development company that provided a platform for finding, connecting, and communicating with people in large and small organizations.

Tasked with the development of the Windows Phone 8 client application. Responsibilities included both software development and product management. Each team member, responsible for their respective client, maintained the product backlog and collaborated with business experts to ensure effective feature implementation on their platform.

- Worked with our business leaders to define and understand the direction of the platform
- Collaborated with other members of the mobile platform team to ensure features were built in a common way in order to provide our users a consistent experience across platforms
- Met with customers to gather their feedback as needed in order to better serve their needs

Skills: C# * XAML * Mobile Development * Team Leadership * Agile Methodolgies * Project Management * Communication

Vstrator.com (Startup) / Senior Engineer
March 2013 - July 2013, Raleigh NC (Lost funding)

Part of a team responsible for the virtual coaching platform, enabling coaches to deliver virtual coaching to athletes through video telestration. My role was a combination of 75% developer and 25% product manager. As a developer, I collaborated with a team to build the Vstrator.com coaching portal. Utilizing technologies such as ASP.Net MVC, ASP.Net Web API, TypeScript, Twitter Bootstrap, and C#.

- Collaborated with business leaders to define and comprehend the platform's direction

- Delivered weekly burn-down and status updates to executive committee
- Gathered feedback from external users regarding the application and promptly addressed any actionable items or bugs
- Worked closely with both onshore and offshore developers on the team to develop a top-notch virtual coaching platform

Skills: C# * Azure * Web Development * TypeScript * KnockoutJS * Team Leadership * Agile Methodolgies * Project Management * Communication

3Birds Marketing / Lead Architect

April 2011 - March, 2013, Chapel HIll NC

Led a team of 7 developers, guiding them in extending and rebuilding our products to meet and surpass the growing demands of our valued customers. A significant aspect of my responsibilities was to design and construct a highly scalable and adaptable backend server platform, capable of efficiently handling a substantial volume of transactions, including email sending, Facebook/twitter post processing, and consumption of social data feeds, among other activities. To facilitate seamless processing, we implemented a queuing system, opting for RabbitMQ.

- Led the team to re-architect the flagship product to meet evolving business needs
- Collaborated with the business to gather requirements and guide the team in building product features that exceeded customer expectations
- Led a team of developers to enhance the backend processing, ensuring it met the demanding scalability requirements
- Implemented best practices for unit testing, diagnostics, performance, and design standards in collaboration with the development team.

Skills: C# * Silverlight * ASP.NET Web API* ASP.NET MVC * Rabbit MQ * Project Management * Javascript * TypeScript

Pre 2011 Job History - https://www.linkedin.com/in/derikwhittaker/

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Education

Western Michigan University / BBA in CIS

1996 - 2000, Kalamazoo MI

While at WMU, was the chapter president for AITP for my Senior year

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Awards

- Channel Chair of an TMRN (Team Member Resource Network) around remote working, with a focus on helping leaders grow in regards to leading remote team members
- North Carolina Hub for Toys-4-Tots, delivering over 5000 toys a year to help children in need.
- Team Manager for 17 combined seasons for traveling youth soccer (Risk Assessed)
- Author of multiple Pluralsight courses
- Author of Pearson Education courses
- Former Microsoft C# MVP (http://tinyurl.com/DerikWhittaker-MVP)
- Member of Microsoft AspInsiders (http://aspinsiders.com)
- Speaker at various Developer Conference and User Group