

Professional experience

NPR, Washington D.C.

Technical Architect, 2014 - Present

Managed small team (researcher & developer/designer), analyzed data for reporting, produced award-winning web stories, covered elections, oversaw open source efforts.

Chicago Tribune, Chicago, IL

New Applications Developer, 2012 - 2014

Developed award-winning projects and built successful open source tools including Tarbell publishing platform, story production, data driven news applications such as Crime in Chicagoland and elections.

Fermi National Accelerator Lab (US Dep't of Energy),
Batavia, IL

Contract Drupal developer, 2010-2012

Created E-Center, a web-based tool to visualize and discuss network performance data, as part of a 3 year project. Visualized data from a highly scalable web service using Drupal, OpenLayers, Raphael, jqPlot, and jQuery.

Progress Illinois, Chicago, IL

Freelance Drupal developer, 2009 – 2010, 2011

Lead developer and sysadmin for regional politics site. Developed & implemented new design and CMS upgrade to in collaboration with designer and editor which significantly increased traffic & engagement.

Chicago Technology Cooperative, Chicago, IL

Drupal Developer, 2007 – 2009

Worked on Drupal projects including Chicago Public Radio's Vocale.org project. Specialized in module development, theming, user interface, jQuery, and client relations.

Spear Research, Forest Park, IL

Lead Developer & Data Analyst, 2006-2007

Built custom PHP applications for Qualcomm and Verizon market studies.

Sargent Shriver Nat'l Center on Poverty Law, Chicago, IL

Webmaster/System Administrator, 2004-2006

Oversaw all technology decisions, maintained Linux and Windows servers and websites.

Projects

Supreme Chi-Town Coding Crew (2012-2014)

A weekly workshop to teach hackers data journalism and journalists fundamental web skills. Projects include scraping Cook County Jail data and site production.

FreeGeek Chicago (2005-2012)

I helped start and run FreeGeek Chicago, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that recycles used electronic equipment to provide functional computers, education and skills training in exchange for community service.

Invisible Institute (2001-2009)

Created and maintained The View From The Ground, an early blog that covered Chicago public housing.

Speaking & teaching

I speak about and teach practical technology skills. I've presented at NICAR (2014 + 2015), Migrahack (Chicago 2013, Mexico City 2014, Tucson 2015), OpenGov Chicago (Elections, Crime, Tarbell), at DrupalCon Europe (2008), at Deloitte's regional tech conference (2007), and provided expert witness (2007).

Expertise

Content management frameworks: Tarbell, Flask, Django, Drupal 6, Drupal 7, Wordpress, Jekyll.

UI planning & design: Skilled in UI/UX discovery exercises and user-centered design.

System administration: Linux (Debian, Ubuntu, Red Hat Enterprise Linux), Cloud services (Amazon Web Services)

Server technologies: Web servers (Apache, Nginx), caching/proxying (Varnish), fulltext search (solr, Elasticsearch), databases (MySQL, PostgreSQL), deployment (Fabric), queuing (Celery)

Web technologies: HTML5, responsive design, CSS3, Javascript, jQuery, Backbone, D3, Leaflet

Education

Bachelors of Science, Physics: North Park University, Chicago, IL, 2003 (with honors)