

Professional experience

Chicago Tribune

New Applications Developer, 2012 - Present

Developed award-winning projects and build successful open source tools including the Tarbell web publishing platform, data driven news applications such as Crime in Chicagoland and election coverage, and story production on His Saving Grace, Life After Hadiya, and Lost Friends.

Fermi National Accelerator Lab, 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 US Dep't of Energy project. E-Center visualized data from a highly scalable web service and using Drupal, OpenLayers, Raphael, jqPlot, and jQuery.

Progress Illinois, Chicago, IL

Freelance Drupal developer, 2009 – 2010, 2011

Full-time lead developer and sysadmin for award winning regional politics site. Developed & implemented a new design and Drupal 6 upgrade to <http://progressillinois.com> in collaboration with designer and editor. Redesign and new strategy greatly increased traffic.

Chicago Technology Cooperative, Chicago, IL

Drupal Developer, 2007 – 2009

Worked on Drupal projects including Chicago Public Radio's Vocale.org project, NetSquared, the Linux Foundation, The Autism Program of Illinois, and the Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children. Specialized in PHP custom module development, theming, user interface, jQuery, and client communication.

Spear Research, Forest Park, IL

Lead Developer & Data Analyst, 2006-2007

Built custom PHP applications for Qualcomm and Verizon market studies that managed questionnaires, tracked participants, generated automated and custom reports for researchers and product managers.

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. Converted key infrastructure to Linux and oversaw transition to Plone-based website.

Projects

Supreme Chi-Town Coding Crew (2012-present)

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 for MigraHack (Chicago + Mexico City), OpenGov Chicago (Elections, Crime, Tarbell), at DrupalCon Europe '08, at Deloitte's regional tech conference in '07, provided expert witness in '07.

Expertise

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

Drupal 6 & 7: 4+ years of production experience, Drupal 6 core contributor, module contributor and maintainer.

UI planning & design: Balsamiq and Photoshop for user interface & experience discovery.

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), 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)