

Hi whomever,

The UF job posting at the White Lab caught my eye when I read this (quoted):

“Computational research, open source software development, and open science approaches are core components of research in this lab ... time-limited position will develop and maintain open source software designed for working with large amounts of heterogeneous data, making predictions for ecological systems, and providing infrastructure for ecologists to share and improve predictions.”

I believe I am qualified, and I prefer a time-limited position.

I devoted nearly a decade to the UF Astronomy dept. as the Coordinator of Computers Apps., where I developed a considerable amount of custom Infrared instrument control and data acquisition software. In 2007 I decided to return to NASA (Goddard Space Flight Center), where I worked as a contractor before my UF Astronomy position. At Goddard I've worked on a variety of Astrophysics and Earth Science projects over the years as a scientific programmer and systems engineer. When I returned there in 2007 I joined the Earth Observing System data-center, one of my tasks was to prototype an OGC caching web map server (WMS-C). I was asked to do so using Python and open-source tech.; this included Python Imaging Lib (PIL), Mapnik, Matplotlib-Basemap, and other components (Apache HTTPD with mod_python, etc.). I provided a test client using Openlayers and my WMS-C was deployed in 2008 as an element of the Giovanni system:

<http://disc.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/giovanni>

I noticed the job posting indicated a need for someone with some GIS experience, and I would like to revisit this technology after the passage of 7 years! Consequently I have resurrected some of my old source code and pushed things up to my GitHub account(s). I have also started to prototype some investigative apps. using node.js server-side, and comparing the latest releases of Leaflet with Openlayers-3 browser-client-side. Please feel free to take a look at this GitHub repository and the demo it describes (domains earthlimb.net and earth.eviz.biz):

<https://github.com/evizbiz/earth.eviz.biz>

and my (somewhat dated) mod_python WMS-C (I plan to refurbish via Flask-WebSocket):

<https://github.com/honsys/vipilwmsc>

The description of the White Lab at UF is quite appealing and I would be delighted to talk to folks there about their activities and how I can help. Also, I have inserted a scan of my favorite annual review letter from the UF Astronomy Dept. into the next page; enjoy! Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David B. Hon

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UNIVERSITY OF
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Department of Astronomy

30 August 2002

TO: Dr. Stanley Dermott
FROM: Dr. Charles M. Telesco
SUBJECT: Annual Evaluation of Mr. David Hon

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Mr. David Hon has been an outstanding employee during the year under consideration for this evaluation. While his duties have been many, his key role has been as leader of the software development effort that is part of the T-ReCS project currently being carried out by the UF Astronomy Department under contract to AURA and the Gemini Observatories. The T-ReCS software tasks are extremely complicated in part because they involve developing software that will become an integral part of the Gemini Observatory facility software environment, which is being developed elsewhere and, in any case, has been ill-defined and, at least initially, constantly changing. David has demonstrated a unique flexibility and persistence in understanding the complex requirements and determining how best to respond to them. As judged by Gemini personnel (who must be satisfied that the requirements are met), David has successfully implemented appropriate solutions, and over the last year he has nearly brought the software development program to a successful conclusion. These T-ReCS-related tasks were David's most important responsibilities during this year, and he has performed them aggressively and remarkably well.

Let me also note that David has shown himself to be a very effective leader of the other software personnel who are also carrying out various parts of these tasks. He has very effectively coordinated the various complex activities among his colleagues and students. Furthermore, he has had the chief responsibility of coordinating these in-house activities with the Gemini personnel who not only oversee this T-ReCS contract but who must be called upon to provide support and advice as needed. David has proven that he does this well, and in a way that represents UF well.

I find David Hon's performance this previous year of the highest quality, and I am pleased to have him as a colleague

Reviewed by Dr. Stanley Dermott, Chairman

David Hon

Date