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gastar

[k](https://www.linkedin.com/in/gastark)



gstar

[k](https://github.com/gstark)

Skills

Mentorship. Management. Ruby. Ruby on Rails. Linux. C. C++. JavaScript. TypeScript. Java. C#. HTML. CSS. TDD. Docker. React. Heroku. Nginx. VMWare. MySQL. PostgreSQL. Windows.

Experience

Senior Instructor & Chief Technology Officer / Suncoast Developers Guild

August 2018 - Present / Saint Petersburg, Florida

* Expanded market from full-time in-person classes into remote, part-time courses by developing an open-source curriculum for Ruby, C#, Entity Framework, ASP.NET, HTML, CSS, Responsive Web, JavaScript, TypeScript, React, Deployment, and Algorithmic Thinking. See [https://handbook.suncoast.io.](https://handbook.suncoast.io/)
* Enabled part-time courses by producing over 400 hours of recorded lectures with detailed slides and corresponding reading and code samples.
* Reduced overhead of managing required student records by building a student management system in Rails/React/TypeScript to track enrollment, homework assignments, grading, and student progress reports.
* Contributed to a 95% placement rate by identifying, recommending, and guiding students to secure positions as junior developers.
* Contributed to internal app generator: [app-app](https://www.npmjs.com/package/app-app). Based on react-scripts, builds student starter projects.

Senior Developer / STRATACACHE (Real Digital Media)

August 2017 - Present / Saint Petersburg, Florida

* Improved the marketability of the NEOCAST digital signage management system by reimplementing, as the primary developer, the software as a JSON-API back-end in Ruby on Rails and a front-end in over 30,000 lines of TypeScript and React using Bootstrap.
* Enabled new markets by creating and maintaining a custom Ubuntu-based OS that supported 32-bit Intel, 64-bit Intel, and then ARM-64 based embedded systems.
* Maintained software development costs by building, deploying, and supporting a Ruby on Rails project for over 15 years. From Rails version 0.9 through Rails version 6.1
* Lowered hardware platform costs by maintaining a single application architecture that ran on 32-bit Intel, 64-bit Intel, ARM-64, and Android devices.
* Reduced hosting budget by building automation software for deploying and scaling AWS resources to host a Docker-based application.
* Increased diagnostic capability and lowered time-to-resolution of issues by implementing consolidated application log collection and analysis.
* Achieved first-to-market amongst other divisions in a transition to the ARM platform by developing and implementing custom kernel patches for ARM-64 systems.

Instructor and Product Development / The Iron Yard

July 2015 - July 2017 / Saint Petersburg, Florida

* Increased enrollment at one of the most profitable campuses at the largest in-person code school through developing and implementing a curriculum for Ruby, Ruby on Rails, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React, Node, Express, Algorithmic Thinking, and Deployment.
* Improved our ease of delivery for curriculum and student information by building custom learning management software.

VP Product Development & Engineering / Real Digital Media

January 2005 - July 2015 / Saint Petersburg, Florida

* Designed, architected, and implemented a software-as-a-service digital signage platform recognized as the most adaptable and easy to use in the market.
* Managed a team developing Ruby on Rails applications to provide a remote management web application to operate our customer's digital signage networks.
* Maintained excellent application availability by building infrastructure that processes over five million requests and one million background jobs per day.
* Increased application uptime and fault tolerance by building and deploying an AWS infrastructure and software deployment strategy, including multi-zone redundancy.
* Continually lowered operational costs by migrating infrastructure from one server in a closet through a data center transition to a scalable Amazon Web Services based architecture over the course of the application's lifetime.
* Improved customer support by creating monitoring dashboards and alerts to forecast and resolve issues before customers are impacted.
* Ensured continuity of business function by building disaster recovery policies and code, including offsite content and database backups.
* Opened new markets by adding hardware platforms by developing Linux and Android software and custom Linux distributions to run on embedded and PC platforms.
* Increased platform reliability and device uptime by creating a custom Ubuntu-based operating system designed to boot from a single squashfs root filesystem combined with an overlay filesystem allowing for secure and reliable remote upgrades of thousands of remote devices.
* Increased the number of hardware platforms supported by patching Linux hardware drivers for device incompatibilities and missing features.
* Reduced the complexity of supporting a diverse array of platforms spanning over 30 hardware configurations, from custom system-on-chip to off-the-shelf hardware, including migrations from 32

to 64-bit operating systems and software.

* Built online report generator producing CSV, XML, JSON, and PDF reports.
* Expanded markets to new customers by designing and building an interactive editor for creating digital signage presentations containing multi-zone and multi-screen configurations.
* Reduced the count and size of servers through code, query, and index optimization.
* Reduced implementation and support complexity by designing a single flexible architecture in C, C++, and Java to download, manage, and play customer media that grew to support Linux, Windows, and Android-based devices.

Senior Engineer / Honeywell Space Systems

March 2002 - January 2005 / Clearwater, Florida

* Innovated the use of commercial-off-the-shelf hardware and software (COTS) as a senior software architect on the Ballistic Missile Range Safety Technology program.
* Achieved Flight Category 2 certification (one level below the safety category for human space flight) for tracking launch vehicles, downloading telemetry, converting real-time telemetry data into actionable information, and plotting the Instantaneous Impact Point of launch vehicles. ● See: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BMRST>

Community

BarCamp Tampa Bay 2007 to 2017 Founding member of BarCamp Tampa Bay

Ignite Tampa Bay - 2011 to 2017 - Founding member of Ignite Tampa Bay

Coder Night - 2017 to 2021 - Organized a meetup designed to help developers of all skill levels practice and receive feedback in a supportive and collaborative environment.

Tampa Ruby Brigade - 2006 to Present - Organized the Tampa Ruby Brigade meetup.

Education

University of Arizona

Masters in Management Information Systems

University of Rochester

Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science / Applied Mathematics