To Whom It May Concern:

Being self-taught, I think telling my story is the best way to showcase my skills and viewpoint, and how I developed them.

I started my journey at Integer — "the world's leading commerce agency" — working on client websites large and small. Early on, I began teaching colleagues about the benefits of emerging technologies like CSS and became an advocate on the web team for usability and accessibility.

After a few years of honing my expertise in HTML, CSS and JS, I was presented with a new challenge. One of our developers quit with no notice, and we had a project that needed to be finished ASAP. I volunteered to take over the project and I dove into teaching myself PHP and MySQL the hard way. It was a trial by fire to be sure, but I was able to deliver a website with a rudimentary scratch-built CMS and calendar that served their needs well.

About 4 years in, I became the lead developer and designer of a suite of internal applications — for project management, time and benefits tracking, HR interactions, and secure external file sharing. I made it my job to make it easier for everyone else to get their work done. To find the pain points that were slowing down processes or annoying people, and to smooth them out. That's still what I enjoy most about doing this work today.

It was a departure from doing work for clients, but it was extremely rewarding to be able to focus on one set of processes and needs and think about how best to serve them in an evolving fashion. It was also successful — even during some tough economic times we always remained one of the most profitable offices in the group, which was in part attributed to the efficiency that our tools enabled.

After 10 years at Integer, I moved on to Visionary Services, a small web development firm. At Visionary, we used an in-house MVC framework that was just coming into its own as I came on board. I was able to get great experience working on the framework itself, as well as on our in-house CMS system that was built on top of it. Most of my time was spent as Lead Developer for a site that helped customers find retail & drop-off locations for a large multinational shipping and printing company. Aside from the lessons learned about keeping a site with heavy traffic running during peak times, I became familiar with the challenges involved with consuming and providing large data streams and web services.

Throughout all of these roles, I have also been the go-to person to bridge the design and development worlds in whatever ways have been necessary. My programming experience combined with my background as an artist, my well-informed opinions on design, and my decades of experience with CSS make me ideally suited to this role.

Ultimately — while challenging and rewarding — I wasn't getting a chance to work on the "products" at Visionary (the framework and CMS) as much as I would have liked. I also found that working within the guidelines of the institutional IT department of our client was allowing less and less of the flexibility and creativity that I craved. So, I decided to take a break from that world for a while and have been freelancing and honing my skills in the meantime.

Since then, I have been excited by the acceleration in the adoption of web technologies and have been exploring new avenues of creativity with Laravel, Node.js and Vue.js. I feel like there has never been a more exciting time to be a developer, and I look forward to speaking soon about how we can make the most of these new opportunities together.

— Ian Leckie

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OBJECTIVE

I'm seeking a remote position in a dynamic, progressive organization where I can leverage my unique combination of skills in new and challenging ways.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Freelance Digital Designer, Meredith; Des Moines, Iowa — 2019–Present
Production of digital assets. Implemented shell script and Node.js based automation for image downloads and email template processing.

Senior Developer, Visionary Services; Des Moines, Iowa — 2010–2018
Developed client websites using PHP, MySQL, JS, HTML and CSS. Development and design work on in-house PHP/MySQL-based MVC framework and CMS product. Lead Developer and administrator on a retail & drop-off locator site for a large multinational shipping and printing company. Front-end engineering utilizing CSS, Less, Sass, JS, jQuery. LAMP and nginx server setup and administration.

Senior Developer, Integer; Des Moines, Iowa — 2000–2010
Developed client websites using PHP, MySQL, JS, HTML and CSS. Usability and accessibility advocate. Designed and developed internal suite of productivity applications for project management, time and benefits tracking, HR interactions, and secure external file sharing. Worked directly twith clients — both internal and external — to determine their needs and how vto best serve them. Front-end engineering. LAMP and OS X server setup and administration.

EDUCATION

Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa — BFA - Printmaking, 2000

SKILLS

PHP, MySQL, Javascript, HTML5, CSS, Laravel, Node,js, jQuery, Vue.js, git, svn, Sass, Less, SQLite, Linux, MacOS, LAMP setup & administration, nginx, shell scripting, Photoshop, Illustrator, Sketchup, Fusion 360

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Blank Park Zoo event volunteer
Polk County Conservation invasive species removal
Bidwell Riverside Center Food Pantry holiday volunteer
Planned Parenthood of Iowa book sale volunteer

REFERENCES

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