Josh Dean
Full-stack Web Developer

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Summary

I am a US Resident from New Zealand. I have recently relocated to Vancouver, WA and I am seeking web development opportunities. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology and possess ~5 years of experience in web and mobile. I believe my excellent communication skills and work ethic, coupled with my ability to empathize with a product are my key strengths. My MBTI is INTJ.

I am ideally seeking a permanent position, which will see me specialize in an area to build on my broad skillset gained in pre-money startups. However, I am also open to contract opportunities.

Core Skills

- Rails, MVC.NET, React.js and iOS
- Functional outcomes, UI, UX
- APIs, cloud based, and distributed systems
- AWS, Azure, GitHub
- Unit testing, RSpec, Travis, Jenkins
- Code review, Pair programming, Agile, XP
- Sketch, Visio, Photoshop, InVision

Education

2013   Bachelor of Information Technology, Southern Institute of Technology, New Zealand
(A- average, transcript available at http://jdbd.nz/education)

Distinctions:
- Top marking student, 2011
- Best Project, 2013

Employment History

Touchtech / Leaping Tiger
Developer, June 2015 – March 2016 (Contract)

Touchtech is a web and mobile development shop based in Wellington, New Zealand. This role worked solely with their client Leaping Tiger, who offer a social network by the same name for video gamers. See them at Touchtech.co.nz and Leaping-tiger.com. The contract commenced at approximately the same time Leaping Tiger launched its initial systems which were developed at Touchtech.

Touchtech's contract ended December 2015, at which time Leaping Tiger offered me a permanent position as their CTO. I declined the position as it required my presence in NZ, whereas I had planned to reside in the USA from 2016. For the purpose of performing proper hand over to the new CTO, I have accepted a remote contract with Leaping Tiger which ends in March 2016.

Role Purpose
To continue to develop Leaping Tiger's software and systems, build an in-house development team, and smoothly phase out Touchtech's involvement.

Technologies

- Ruby on Rails 4 (using MySQL)
- React.js
- Native iOS (Objective-C)
- AWS – EC2, OpsWorks, RDS, Load Balancing, S3, CDN, CloudFront, Route 53, Chef Recipes
- Intercom (API integrations for reporting)
- Github
- Jenkins
- RSpec
- Firebase (real-time in app messaging)
- Google Cloud Messaging (web + Android push notifications)
- Parse.com (iOS push notifications)

Responsibilities

- Leadership of Leaping Tiger's product team
- Attend interviews and advise on new technical hires
- Interpret and clarify business and product requirements, as they relate to design and development
- Work with UX designer to develop user stories, workflows, wire framing, and UI designs
- Analyze and report on user acquisition and retention, identifying and measuring KPIs
- Develop features and fix bugs for Rails 4 API, React.js web app, native iOS app
- Lead development on the API, leveraging AWS load balancing, CDN and RDS
- Review pull requests, merging and deployment of all code across Rails, React.js, and iOS
- Creation and curation of technical documentation
- Prioritization of feature development
- Task assignment for internal product team
- Liaise with Touchtech's other developers to access more manpower as required

Achievements

- Successfully phased out Touchtech's involvement, all development is now performed in-house
- Oversaw the release of a React.js web app, enabling non-iOS users for Leaping-Tiger
- Designed and managed the development of a mixed native/React.js app for Android, enabling Leaping Tiger to address a significant previously unavailable market
- Lead development from product launch through to an active user base of ~10,000
- Learned Objective-C and used Xcode to develop new features for the existing iOS app, prior to hiring an iOS developer
- Transformed MVP solution into robust and scalable multi-platform system

Chalkle
Lead Developer, July 2013 – June 2015 (Contract)

Chalkle is a pre-money tech startup based in Wellington, New Zealand. Chalkle offers a web based learning platform. Chalkle aims to significantly reduce administrative overheads for teachers and education providers. The product suite includes a booking system and payments gateway, event and class promotion, payroll for teachers, and Learning Management Systems to maintain students and learning modules. See it at Chalkle.com.

Role Purpose

Transform piecemeal 'Minimum Viable Product' into a functional system by working with the business team and UX designer to gather requirements, propose, and develop solutions.

Technologies

- Ruby on Rails 3.2, (using ERB and PostgreSQL)
- Capistrano, Unicorn
- Bootstrap (HTML, CSS, and JS framework)
- Azure VM running Ubuntu
- Mailchimp
- Google Analytics

Responsibilities

- Final responsibility of system integrity and maintainability of code base
- Develop features and fix bugs
- Analyze and report on user acquisition and retention, identifying and measuring KPIs
- Work with UX designer to develop user stories, workflows, wire framing, and UI designs
- Creation and curation of technical documentation

Achievements

- Learned Ruby on Rails
- Overhauled Rails 2.3 code base, entirely undocumented and the majority of which was not functional
- Introduced a high degree of system integrity supported by a maintainable code base and automated testing
- Refactored for an update to Ruby 2 and Rails 3.2
- Fully mobile optimized web app (previously not responsive)
- Managed the product through an active user base growth from ~500 - ~7000

Task Specific Software Solutions (TS3)
Software Engineer, November 2013 – July 2015

TS3 is an Australian based company which develops bespoke operational software for enterprise clients, most notable of which are airports, mining operations and industrial production companies. They use Microsoft technologies wherever possible.

Role Purpose

Working remotely in a team of three developers, reporting directly to the COO. Perform planning, analysis, design, and development of solutions as directed.

Technologies

- WinForms
- WPF
- Windows Mobile
- Office 365, Lync, SharePoint
- MSSQL, stored procedures, replication
- MVC.NET
- ArcGIS
- C#

Responsibilities

- Research and Development
- UI/UX Design
- System Architecture
- Developing, deploying, and supporting solutions for clients

Achievements

- Initiated, researched and developed .NET Framework 4.0 replacement for TS3's proprietary user interface framework 'LUIS' which was previously limited to .NET Framework 2.0. This enabled interoperation with modern .NET technologies, most notably Windows Presentation Foundation (WPF). This allowed responsive user interfaces to be developed, solving a major pain point for clients who were running solutions with interfaces designed for 4:3 aspect ratio monitors, but had since upgraded to widescreen monitors
- Developed legacy support for the new LUIS 4.0, essentially making WPF act as a wrapper to run the WinForms solutions developed for LUIS 2.0. This enabled TS3 to discontinue support for LUIS 2.0 while still continuing support for those solutions developed for LUIS 2.0, whose owners did not want to update their interfaces from WinForms to WPF
- Developed C# SDK for integration with ArcGIS routing system

Digital Stock
Founder and Technical Lead, November 2011, November 2013

I started Digital Stock with Avinash Varghese in 2011 while I was studying at the Southern Institute of Technology. We offered CMS websites and online marketing services to local businesses. I provided the technical expertise and Avinash offered business experience and strong social networks to leverage sales.

My purpose in founding Digital Stock was to gain industry experience and also make that opportunity available to other students. In 2012 we hired two of my classmates Jim Dowling and Will Finlayson. When I graduated I wanted to grow my skills and career by working under more senior developers, and as I left those two purchased my shares and became directors.

Digital Stock evolved rapidly and is now a busy development consultancy specializing in farming technology. I am extremely proud that Digital Stock maintains a close relationship with the Southern Institute of Technology by continuing to offer industry experience to students through internships.

Role Purpose

Work with clients to design, develop and support solutions suitable for their organization goals.

Technologies

PHP	Bootstrap
WordPress (bespoke themes and plugins)	MVC.NET
Google Analytics	MS Access

Responsibilities

- Discovery of requirements through meetings with clients
- Agile development methodology, soliciting feedback and dealing with change requests at every stage of development
- System Architecture
- Training and support for customers in use of their CMS

Achievements

- Gained a huge amount of knowledge on how to manage and produce solutions
- Excellent customer satisfaction
- Employed two part-time workers in second year of operation

Background, etc.

I am from Auckland, New Zealand. However, I've been a US permanent resident since 1999I've lived in Hawaii, Oregon and Washington at different times in my life. In 2010 I moved back to NZ to study and after graduation I enjoyed working on tech startups in Wellington (tech and political capital of NZ). I read a huge amount of books on a wide range of topics and am always coming up with whacky ideas. My goals for the next couple of years is to pay off my student loan, become a dual citizen, and progress my career.

Written References

Taken from LinkedIn recommendations. Contact details can be provided on request.

Greg Signal
Developer Leaping Tiger

"Josh is an extremely capable developer. During the time I worked with him, it became obvious that he could get things done under the unique pressures present in a small company. Not only in a technical sense; he has very good communication skills which allow him to tease out actionable information from sometimes extremely murky requirements, and his approach to managing the development of the product was an excellent balance of business requirements and technical constraints.

Given the chance I would work with Josh on any future endeavor he embarks upon, and I recommend anyone reading this to do the same."

Alex Li
Head of Mobile at Touchtech (previously lead development of Leaping Tiger)

"Josh is a super self-motivated and communicative person and a great guy to work with. I've smoothly passed on the lead developer role to Josh for one of our clients - Leaping Tiger. He is a fast learner, good developer and most importantly, has eyes on design and user interface. He picked up both reactJS and iOS quickly and be able to ship quality code within a couple of months. I would recommend Josh for any development role and wish him a great future ahead."

Silvia Zuur
CEO at Chalkle

"Josh is a fast learner, intelligent developer, great team player, and just really good all round person.

Josh has that awesome balance of both being able to listen to instructions but also question when needed. He is task orientated and is really good at just getting stuff done.

I have so enjoyed working along side Josh - learning from him as he learns from me. I hope to continue that into the future."

Matthew Kerr
Designer at Trade Me (previously designer at Chalkle)

"Josh is self motivated and able to deal with a wide variety of development problems. His habit of building a full understanding of the context around the tasks has resulted in better code."

James Dowling
Director, Business Analyst at Digital Stock

"Josh is a passionate, knowledgeable and experienced software engineer that is extremely capable of designing and building almost any system.

Alongside this he keeps on top of the latest technology trends meaning he's always using the smartest solution for projects. I love working with Josh and never hesitate to pickup the phone if there's a project we can collaborate on."