

Summary

Software geek and technical manager with broad and deep skill sets, and a lifelong passion for learning — as happy directing small companies, as when excelling as a squeaky wheel in the machine of the world's largest software company.

As a young teen, John wrote his first code from a GE timesharing, library book; programs in hand, he tracked down the *Burrough's* mainframe of the Dallas school district and convinced the admins to let him use their machine. Before finishing high school he was doing compiler work on the *UT Health Science Center's DECsystem*, and had mastered a dozen languages across multiple systems.

Attending Rice University on a full ticket National Merit Scholarship, John was appalled at the IBM mainframe in their CS department; he studied physics before dropping out to found his first company. Coupled with an early hobbyist's interest in electronics, he was soon developing embedded computers, operating systems, and communications protocols for *Hewlett Packard*, *AT&T*, *DEC*, *Azurdata*, and his next two startups.

In his twenties, he managed a staff of dozens of designers and engineers covering every aspect of manufacturing networked, industrial, computer systems. He traveled throughout Europe and Asia, both troubleshooting software/hardware, and handling the technical side of systems sales. He developed business plans, engineering and production budgets, and served on the boards of multiple small companies.

John's next decades involved alternating and interleaving deep technical work with the direction of teams and engineering departments. Whenever expanded management responsibilities threatened to erode his skills, he switched to roles demanding greater depth and commitment.

For the last few years he and his wife have been sailing a small sailboat around the US and Mexico while he again immersed himself in personal studies in neuroscience, cognitive science, and artificial intelligence. He's currently completing his first book for publication later this year.

Experience

[S/V Slappey II](#)

Captain

WEST COAST US, MEXICO, EAST COAST US

Jul '14 – present

Managed the physical, electrical, and electronic systems on board a small sailing vessel, occasionally under harsh conditions. Handle unexpected, and occasionally life threatening disasters with some grace. Extensive reading and personal projects in AI, ML, neuroscience, cognitive science, genetics, and bioinformatics. Writing a book on general AI, "*Considering Thought*," to be published late in 2017.

[Microsoft – Advanced Strategy and Research](#)

REDMOND, WA

Senior Software Development Engineer

Mar '08 – Jun '14

Core member of the team designing a [green field operating system](#) in a project led directly by [Eric Rudder](#). John designed and developed key elements of the application lifecycle — more specifically, the network model for component discovery, distribution, and loading based on secure content graphs; the execution stack for process management; the build system for the entire OS. Worked on the C#/M# compiler and debugger, capability and resources models, and various protocols.

Lead Software Development Engineer

Sep '06 – Mar '08

Started in the Windows Live/AdCenter group, integrating SMS and email delivery into backend services. Created SQL Server Reporting Services based content authoring and generation tools for ad campaign bidding, monitoring, and reporting. On the topic of a whitepaper that John authored, [Bill Gates](#) wrote that John was "more articulate than he was"; rare praise from someone not known to give compliments lightly.

[SozoTek, Inc](#)

AUSTIN, TX

Director of Engineering

Mar '05 – Sep '06

Hired directly by [Gail Redmond](#) and [Ralph Germer](#) to manage a dozen scientists, engineers, and technicians developing image processing, analysis and test technologies for this second round, mobile devices startup. Handled external contractors designing ASICs, PC boards, and electromechanical systems, as well as an extensive patent portfolio. Personally developed GPU versions of custom filters and transforms; psychometric test tools for image comparison metrics; a GUI platform for running imaging tools; and significant work on the design of electromechanical/optical camera module test system. Assisted in direct negotiations with investors and major telco carriers.

Pervasive Software (now a subsidiary of Actian)

AUSTIN, TX

Principal Engineer

Dec '03 – Feb '05

Designed and managed the Pervasive Services stack: the underlying abstraction and services layer across all Pervasive products. This provided a kind of virtual OS, supporting threading and process models, communications protocols, file and database access, with extensive i18n support. Pioneered continuous integration and testing on multiple *nix, Windows, and mainframe operating systems. Built the J2EE Connection system for the ETL, workflow, and dataflow engines controlling more than two hundred different database, filesystem, and application interfaces.

Senior Lead Software Developer — Data Junction

Mar '01 – Dec '03

Managed a team that reengineered the ETL product stack for IBM mainframes and mid-sized systems. This technology was critical to the [acquisition of Data Junction by Pervasive](#). Worked on various protocols, including the SOAP and WSDL implementations that enabled [Salesforce's](#) APIs.

LyraSys, Inc.

AUSTIN, TX

Chief Technical Officer

Mar '99 – Sep '01

Founder of mobile devices software startup. Designed and implemented a novel mobile applications/services architecture for the emerging WAP phone market based on a [dynamic adaptive display model](#). Cratered and burned when the anticipated market failed to take off, and new money became unavailable; attempts to pivot ran aground against the [dotcom crash](#).

Linx Data Terminals, Inc.

DALLAS, TX

Chief Architect

Sep '89 – Nov '99

Handled all technical and business aspects of product design and development for a line of networked industrial computers. Personally developed operating systems, language compilers, drivers (including a full TCP/IP protocol stack), applications, and support services across a range of processors and embedded devices. Designed and managed hardware from PCB and FPGA design to packaging and test procedures. Founder, officer, and board member of this niche market company, which grew from a handful of people to one with monthly revenues in the millions, shipping and installing products worldwide.

Please refer to my [Linked-in profile](#) for a more complete list of work experiences along with recommendations.

Education

University of Texas at Austin

AUSTIN, TEX

Mathematics, Computer Science

1988 – 1990

Rice University

HOUSTON, TX

Physics, Computer Science

1975 – 1976

Skills

Technical expertise: Software design, management, and implementation, both within and across teams; emphasis on agile methodologies, continuous build/deployment/testing/integration. Proficient in C++, Python, Java, and C#, although he's forgotten more languages and programming tools than he can count — including (but not limited to) Ada, Algol, APL(with the scars to prove it), AWK, Basic, ESPOL, Excel, Forth, Fortran, GO, JOVIAL, JCL, Ladder logic, \LaTeX , Lisp, Lua, M#, make, MATLAB, Modula, Pascal, Perl, PL/1, PL/M, Prolog, R, Ruby, SAIL, SNOBOL, TECO, and VHDL, as well as dozens of assemblers. Solid knowledge of various web technologies: HTML+CSS, XML, Node.js, REST, SOAP and JavaScript. Linux, Windows, and VM administration skills: Bash, batch, Apache, IIS, SQL Server, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, VirtualBox, VMware, Hypervisor.

Natural languages: English (*native tongue*), Spanish (*limited proficiency*), Japanese (*beginner*).

Other: Certified as *Emergency Medical Technician*, and *Wilderness EMT*.

Interests

Non-exhaustive and in alphabetical order: archaeology, artificial intelligence, caving, cognitive science, emergency medicine, genetics, high-angle rescue, mountaineering, neuroscience, open source and open publication, operating systems, protocols, sailing, scuba diving, software engineering, space travel.