James D. Kath

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Summary   Over 20 years as a software developer, architect and project manager on large-scale distributed systems including Ruby on Rails, Enterprise Java and BEA TUXEDO. ***Former BEA Software employee***. I have led many large projects and have owned my own consulting company with over twenty employees. I'm very business-minded when it comes to delivering a project and work closely with the stakeholders to deliver what they want. I currently work as a freelance developer.

Skills   Ruby on Rails, Merb, Panda, ActiveMessage, WebLogic, Sun Glassfish, Spring, Struts2, Hibernate, HTML, XML, J2EE Java, C, SQL. Some SOA (with BEA AquaLogic 2.1).

Databases   Oracle, MySql, SqlServer, Firebird(Interbase).

Operating Systems

Redhat Linux, UNIX, Mac OSX, IBM Mainframe, Windows

Experience

NFSTI, Denver, CO
Freelance Ruby on Rails Consultant (Part-time project of 15 hours weekly)
April 2009 – Current
www.nfsti.com

NFSTI is a real estate venture that specializes in REO real estate and training agents to understand REO and supplement their practices with REO work from banks on foreclosed properties. The site is written in Ruby on Rails.

Niche Technologies, Inc, Denver Colorado
Consulting Company Owner, Lead/Senior Architect/Developer
December 2007 – April 2009
luxuryproperty.com, fairwayproperties.com, ecoproperties.com

There is a lot more to this job description than I can detail here. I was the exclusive Architect/Developer of this project with periodic assistance from consultants, whom I managed directly in order to help complete the project. An initially well-funded start-up where I was entrusted with all of the technical decisions regarding this Luxury Real Estate system. Would love to describe in more detail my roles and responsibilities. This was a very major effort and a huge amount of work. The core of the application is designed such that an infinite number of sites can run off of the core and each appears as a distinct entity. Interfaced with several outside services such as foreign currency data providers, real estate feed providers, Ad Servers, Video Service providers and a credit card fulfillment provider. Worked also on Ruby on Rails for administration pages and Ruby/Merb for the Panda Video Transcoding process communicating over ActiveMQ using ActiveMessage. A graphic artist/html developer made the site attractive and was responsible for cross-browser compatibility. These sites are in production but development is only about 90% complete and the seed money has dried up.

NFSTI, Denver, CO
Freelance Ruby on Rails Consultant
September 2007 – May 2008
www.nfsti.com

NFSTI is a real estate venture that specializes in REO real estate and training agents to understand REO and supplement their practices with REO work from banks on foreclosed properties. The site is written in Ruby on Rails.

Enterprise Software Solutions, Santiago, Chile, South America
Consulting Company Owner, Lead/Senior Architect/Developer
November 2004 – January 2007

Owner and chief WLS Architect/Developer of small consulting company with about 20 developers (WLS and WLS Portal). Used my past experiences and association with BEA to negotiate and become a direct service provider for BEA in all of South America (except for Brazil). Also had several large direct clients (BCI Bank and Entel Communications) in Santiago Chile. Also personally developed and taught several BEA WLS Development and WLS Portal Courses (in Spanish) based on the WLS 8.x platform.

(Sold business and moved back to the states because my wife and I missed the United States).

RxStrategies, West Palm Beach, FL
Chief J2EE Architect/Team Lead/Senior Developer
October 2002 – July 2004

A business startup that works with National Community Health Centers, providing the availability and significantly discounted pricing for prescription drugs.

Oracle OC4J J2EE Application Server and JBoss 3.2, Struts, JSP, Ant, iText, Lucene, JFreeChart,(Cewolf), MySql, SQLServer 2000, Firebird DB and Crystal Reports.

Reported directly to the CTO and am personally responsible for taking the company from having absolutely no enterprise technology to a fully-functional J2EE based system. Since funds were limited, many open-source technologies were used. Personally designed entire system and personally coded at least 70% of it while managing two other team members who coded the other 30%. Set up and implemented two Redhat Linux 8.x Servers (1 for app server, the other for the database) and setup and configured the router under which the servers existed apart from the other desktop LAN in the company. Production systems ran on Linux and the development environment was Windows XP/2000. Implemented CVS as the source repository running under Linux.

Developed two discrete systems feeding off of the same database. One system handles pharmaceutical claim feeds, drug pricing, drug inventory (at over fifty pharmacies) and drug reordering via EDI (850, 855 and 810 documents) with our drug suppliers. Many real-time reports run off of this (Reports are written in JSP/Struts, Jasper Reports and Crystal Reports). Drug pricing system also dynamically creates PDF documents of the script using the iText open-source API. Site-wide search mechanism built on top of the Lucene open-source product. The second system is a CRM system built from the ground up that handles clients, contact management, scheduling, email alarms, event notification and trouble ticket entry and processing.

EPM Compass, Boca Raton, FL
J2EE Architect/Developer(Side Project)
Sepember 2003 – July 2004

A side project converting a product from Microsoft Access to a web-based system. Backend is JBoss 3.2, MySQL 4.0. Front end is standard JSP/Struts. The project's goal is to implement a government standard for evaluating hospital personnel across the United States. The product tracks employees' training and certification dates and contains a database of over 400,000 details for evaluating employees of every position in every department in a hospital. PDF documents of the evaluations are produced and stored as a snapshot as well as storing the information as database data.

Motorola, Plantation, FL
J2EE Architect/Team Lead(Consultant)
February 2002 – September 2002

Motorola iDen Update website for Nextel. Online system for Nextel subscribers to purchase Java applications to run on their Motorola phones as well as purchase ring tones, upgraded phone operation systems and phone features (such as speakerphone capability). Purchased products are then downloaded to the actual phone.

Team Lead over four developers. Architected all significant components of the system such as logging, internationalization and JSP templates as well as personally coding and delivering working prototypes. Created all design documents (of which there were many) and worked closely with the Quality Assurance team to ensure adherence to Motorola's very strict procedures guidelines. Mentored and led development team through entire development, testing and deployment life-cycle including deployment to two Sun/Unix machines. Product was built on BEA WebLogic 6.1 sp2 and WebLogic Portal 4.0. Backend services (J2EE CMP Entity Beans) sat on top of Oracle 8.1.5 and **Oracle** 8.1.7 databases.

DoUWantIt.com, Hallandale Beach, FL
Principle J2EE Architect/Developer
December 2001 – February 2002

(Company was fully owned and funded by UPS). Company's service is to provide U.S. based e-tailing to other countries. Provided single sign-on, single cart experience across a multitude of e-tailers (Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Old Navy and many more) in a multi-lingual, multi-currency site as well as product-shipping internationally.

Designed, developed with J2EE technology. High degree of Java Server Pages, Apache Struts, and other J2EE technologies. Helped convert their existing site from Microsoft ASP to J2EE in order to provide scalability, stability, and internationalization.

Neoris Logistics, Sunrise, FL
Principle J2EE Architect/Develop (Consultant)
April 2001 – November 2001

Designed and project-managed the development team for a product named ActivePort, an XML-based EAI enabling system. ActivePort, through the use of custom-built adapters, enables any system to communicate with any other system. Message sharing was accomplished through XML/EDI via a 3rd party tool called OBOE which does EDI/XML, XML/EDI message conversion. ActivePort was entirely designed and built on top of BEA WebLogic 6.1 and is infinitely scalable and distributable. Heavy use of JMS, JNDI, EJB, JSP and JDBC. Heavy use of Rational Rose to design the product and create use-cases, activity diagrams and sequence diagrams. Followed the Extreme Programming (XP) method of development with the team.

Prototyped the conversion of their logistics tracking product, ActiveTrac, from a standalone VC++ product to a full-blown J2EE product running on BEA WebLogic 6.1. Previously each instantiation of their product could only accommodate one customer. Now it can scale to handle an infinite number of customers with far better performance, availability and distributabilty. Due to the success of these two projects, the company's entire future direction is based on my architectural designs. Heavy use of Rational Rose to reverse-engineer their existing product, then design the new product.

Freelance Consultant
Aug 2000 – April 2001

> *Assignment to BEA Systems, NJ*
> Provide consulting and training services to customers for WebLogic, J2EE, Tuxedo and JOLT. Most projects include training and systems design and architecture integrating legacy systems with web-based technologies using WebLogic. This occupied about two or three weeks per month, sometimes more.

> *Assignments to Various*
> Personally developed and wrote a BEA WebLogic training course including labs for a New Jersey based training company (Now defunct). This 5-day course contains over 500 slides with instructor notes for each slide, labs and the complete Instruction Guide for the labs. Also created a BEA Tuxedo "QuickStart" three-day training course with labs.

Techwurx Systems, Inc., Fort Lauderdale, FL
Partner/Technical Lead
Feb 2000 – Jul 2000

Project managed a new website "Sportswithme.com" (Now defunct). Built using WebLogic. A Servlets/JSP based system with supporting services in EJB. Used UML and Rational Unified Process.

Met with clients and performed business requirements gathering and prototype designs in order to obtain contracts. Projects either involved BEA WebLogic or BEA Tuxedo.

E-lysium Transaction Systems, Hollywood, FL
Technical Lead
July 1999 – Feb 2000

Very heavy Java Servlets/JDBC using Visibroker CORBA. Last two months were spent evaluating WebLogic for a replacement to the current infrastructure. Both led a team of seven and coded several portions of the distributed online-currency server. E-lysium trained its employees on and follows the Rational Unified Process. Attended training for and used the Rational Suite of tools: SoDA, Requisite Pro and ROSE (We did not utilize the code generation facility. All coding was done by hand). From the time of joining the company, our approach was to follow the Rational Unified Process.

Worked very closely with Quality Assurance team since both development and QA were tightly integrated into the iterative development process. All software and software documentation were delivered by my team to be scrutinized by QA. Both defect tracking and defect resolution were also handled by my team.

BEA Systems, Inc., Liberty Corner, NJ

July 1993 – July 1999

One of my most notable contributions was the co-creation of OpenTransport (also called e-Link), a communications mechanism that helped legacy systems communicate with one another. Was very instrumental in integrating OpenTransport with **Walgreen's pharmacy system** whereby all of the stores' computers are connected to the home office in Chicago. There was constant processing of **drug information between the pharmacies** and the main office to verify insurance coverage and to check for drug interactions.

Practice Manager
Jul 1998 – Jul 1999

Responsible for all consulting services issues for our Southeast U.S. customers. Met with customers and performed requirements gathering and system architectural design. Would then put team in place along with a project manager who would report directly to me. Would then travel the Southeast ensuring success with the teams at all of our clients.

Principal Consultant
Aug 1997 – Jul 1998

Provided technical services to BEA's customers. Skills used vary depending on the customer: Heavy Tuxedo, Heavy C, Heavy Java, WebLogic 5.1, light Visual C++, CORBA, Oracle, SQL server, UNIX, Windows NT. Attended WebLogic Developer training. Assignments included: Philadelphia Electric, Vanguard Investment, Grainger, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Bankers Trust, Reuters, Interim Healthcare, Delta Airlines, Windmere Holdings and others. I also served as project manager/technical lead on all of these projects. The last few projects were very heavy on Java/CORBA/JDBC/RMI in a distributed environment including requirements gathering and architectural designs integrating WebLogic and TUXEDO.

Software Engineer
July 1993 - July 1997

Performed as project manager of BEA Connect/TCP prior to BEA acquiring our company (IMC). Primary member of the BEA Connect/TCP team, a TUXEDO-system add-on product providing connectivity between UNIX, NT, CICS and IMS systems. Responsible for designing, coding, testing, and porting the BEA Connect/TCP product. Porting, maintenance and development of the TUXEDO TP Monitor product. Worked extensively on multiple UNIX platforms, Windows NT, and IBM 3090 mainframes. C language, TCP/IP and UNIX tools experience.

Personally wrote the technical manual for BEA Connect/TCP as well as the original version of the training course.

Delta Corporate Services, Parsippany, NJ
Programmer/Analyst (Consultant)
Assigned to Johnson & Johnson (New Brunswick, NJ)
December 1992 - July 1993

This was a **pharmaceutical** fulfillment system that sat on top of the **pharmaceutical inventory** systems of J&J's several companies and presented them as one single inventory system. Was used by regional sales organizations to bundle and unbundled customer orders so that inventory and revenue could be routed to the proper division.

Analyzed, designed, documented and coded the system for both online and batch processing. Personally responsible for coding twenty-three CICS transactional conversations. Extensive database and screen design. COBOL II/CICS/DB2.

Computer Power Group, Edison, NJ

Programmer/Analyst (Consultant)
Assigned to Bristol Meyers/Squibb (Skillman, NJ)
November 1991 - December 1992

This system was an international **pharmaceutical** system. Controlled and monitored pricing and distribution of Bristol Myers/Squibb's **drugs** throughout the entire world and also provided foreign currency conversion. Online and batch programming. Extensive SQL for both batch and online. COBOL II/CICS/DB2.

Systems and Programming Consultants, Charlotte, NC
Programmer/Analyst (Consultant)
Harcourt, Brace and Jovonovich Publishing
June 1991 - October 1991

Coded and maintained a PC-based copyrights and permissions tracking system. High degree of database and screen design.

Dun & Bradstreet Plan Services, Inc., Tampa, FL
June 1987 – June 1991

Systems Analyst
Micro-Technology Department
April 1990 - June 1991

D&B Plan Services was a TPA (Third Party Administrator) for small to mid-sized Health Insurance companies. Provided all sales and policy maintenance functions for the insurance companies including all health claims and **drug** claims processing.

All systems that I worked on were for health claims processing and interaction with the **PCS** drug card companies including processing verification to **pharmacies** for **drug** coverage.

Responsible for systems inter-operating between IBM PCs and an IBM 3090 mainframe. PC applications were written in C for Microsoft Windows 3.0 SDK using the GUPTA gateway to communicate with CICS on the mainframe. Also some light OS/2 Presentation Manager coding. Gave presentations to company officers around the country on the new emerging technology we were using.

One of ten chosen from eighty applicants for the Dun & Bradstreet Bronze Management Training program. Attended and completed this six-month program.

Systems Analyst
Applications Development Department
June 1987 - April 1990

COBOL/CICS/DB2 applications programmer. Responsible for designing, coding, maintaining and supporting multiple online and batch systems including *training* users and new programmers. Extensive CICS and DB2/SQL design and coding. *Wrote and taught a two-day training class on a dynamic report generator system that I had written.*

ComputerPeople, Largo, FL
Consultant
Assigned to Jack Eckerd Corporation
April 1987 - June 1987

COBOL Programmer responsible for systems that verified insurance coverage for customers buying **prescription drugs**. This was a short-term assignment.

Dun & Bradstreet Information Systems, Berkeley Heights, NJ

Programmer

August 1986 - March 1987

Responsible for mainframe utilization reporting system. Programmed in COBOL and SAS.

Prudential Insurance Company, Iselin, NJ

Systems Production Coordinator

January 1983 - August 1986

Programmer for their Health and **Drug** claims tracking system. OS/JCL and COBOL on an IBM 3090 Mainframe.