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My path to software development is actually kind of strange. I was really into computers and engineering tasks as a kid. I remember building a website on Netscape, putting together little mini-rockets and tiny little robots, that kind of thing. But eventually I decided (probably because I grew up in sports crazed New England) that I wanted to work in sports, so I focused my time on doing everything I could to break into baseball.

These days I love doing things like and coding in the following:

- Javascript (ES5 & ES6!) and Ruby, sometimes Python or PHP
- HTML & CSS (and pre-processors like sass, of course)
- Frameworks like Angular & React, using tools like Babel, Gulp, & Browserify
- Contributing to open source (I've worked on Backbone a bit, as well as a project for 18F)
- I also just really love BrowserSync & Travis CI.

I also work on server side code like:

- Ruby on Rails & NodeJS (with Express)

And in databases like:

- MySQL & Postgres
- MongoDB
- And sometimes, because I had to in my last job, Oracle SQL Developer

Of course, it's important to write tests for all my code. Some frameworks I like using:

- Mocha (Chai & Jasmine too!), CasperJS (with PhantomJS) & RSpec

Despite where I am now I studied Spanish in school. When I graduated I had lined up an internship with the Tampa Bay Rays. The following season I worked the Tampa role into another internship with the Miami Marlins. I don't know how much you follow baseball, but if you do, I was there for the Ozzie Guillen craziness year!

Following my Miami internship, it was at that point I started getting back into the software/tech world. I had taught myself SQL, and began to teach myself PHP. I even built this mini-scouting application tool in PHP (I looked at that code recently and it is so awful). Through my work at teams and sort-of tech skills, I landed a job at Bloomberg Sports as an analyst.

At Bloomberg Sports I did all kinds of things. I, at some point, did all of the following:

- QA testing & customer support
- Making analytic reports & rolling out new features with our developers.

Eventually I moved up to Product Manager, where I focused my time on:

- Working every day to manage of software development work!
- Product Roadmapping, defining our QA needs & doing complex code reviews

Around the same time we were acquired by STATS and last October they shuttered the office in NYC. The closing of our office is what convinced me to go to web development full time. In the few weeks since we've finished I've been contributing to open source and learning new things like Meteor!

My background in tech and sports give me a unique perspective on development. I'm highly used to working in crazy intense environments, where every day is different and the problems can change on an hour-by-hour basis. At the same time I believe in approaching every problem with the approach of solving it "forever" and in a way that everyone can make use of it! Perfect for the development world I've found!

Jesse Mills
