

Leonard Garvey

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PROFILE

I am a passionate, rigorous and experienced full-stack developer who possesses a wide range of skills from application development to networking to administration. My problem solving skills are highly developed and I possess a proven track record in finding innovative solutions, or solving difficult issues using analytical, logical and lateral reasoning abilities. I'm passionate about teaching and mentoring and have experience doing both in a variety of contexts and environments. I enjoy presenting my work, and do so as often as possible, at technological social meet-ups such as the Sydney Rails group. I have a wide range of interests and am naturally curious about a variety of areas. Due to a proven ability to quickly learn new skills and technologies and a passion for teaching and mentoring, I strongly believe that I would be a valuable asset to any team project.

SKILLS

- Ruby and Ruby on Rails development experience. I attend Sydney Rails user groups and hack nights and enjoy participating in the Sydney Ruby and JavaScript community events. I have led the development of Airtasker.com since May 2012 and introduced Ruby into the Nielsen development team.
- Linux administration, perl, bash, sed, awk scripting and operations experience. At Nielsen I was part of the on-call roster so am capable of being on call.
- Comprehensive web development knowledge using a variety of tools, languages and frameworks ranging from Ruby on Rails, to Sinatra (and Rack) and PHP. Highly developed front-end skills: CSS3, HTML5, JavaScript, CoffeeScript, jQuery and Backbone.
- Commercial .NET C# experience.
- Database querying and administration knowledge with a variety of database platforms ranging from PostgreSQL and Interbase to SQL Server. I have experience implementing systems using MongoDB and using CouchDB.
- Knowledge and appreciation of Project Management tools and techniques including Earned Value Management.

EXPERIENCE

Lead Developer, Airtasker — 2012 - present

As Lead Developer I was responsible for the development of Airtasker.com a Rails 3.2 powered, web-based startup. Airtasker works with technology such as: Redis and Resque for background job processing, Memcache for caching, Postgres, Github, RSpec and Cucumber. During my time at Airtasker I've worked to scale the platform with metrics from New Relic using tools like Rails built-in caching, Rack middleware, Amazon Cloudfront and S3. Recently I've worked to refresh the front-end with one of the main goals being to improve client performance and user perception of performance. Finally, I've been responsible for providing technical leadership and mentoring within the Airtasker team.

Ruby on Rails Teacher, General Assembly— 2 months in 2012

Taught 6-9 students basic Ruby and Rails in an intensive 6 hour/week 2 month course. The students began the course knowing no Ruby or Rails and often had no programming experience at all. Most students finished the course being able to create a basic website and also finished with knowledge on how to find more information to help their Rails journey. Teaching is something I enjoy greatly and have a great deal of respect for.

Senior Analyst Programmer, Nielsen Television Audience Measurement — 2010 - 2012

In addition to the previous experience (see below):

- Responsible for team technical direction, support and mentoring, which included the implementation of a new source control process using Mercurial and providing training in Mercurial to the team.
- Implemented MongoDB, Sinatra, Backbone.js based reporting system.

During my time at Nielsen TAM I became the “go-to” person on all technical matters, frequently being called in to provide innovative solutions that might be normally considered outside my domain expertise. This includes supporting the IT staff with Linux administration and training.

Analyst Programmer, Nielsen Television Audience Measurement — 2008 - 2010

Responsible for maintenance, development, analysis to ensure data production and delivery for Television Audience Measurement. Key responsibilities and achievements include:

- Design, implementation and delivery of new television ratings data delivery web system for 3 clients. The custom framework of this system was subsequently used in several other systems.
- Development of integrated .NET powered software (Mercury) which provides on desktop access to data delivery site through an XML-based API.
- Analysis and implementation of process and technological improvements which both automated and then sped up morning production by ~30 minutes, a 25% improvement.
- Ability to provide mentoring and advice to colleagues on a wide variety of technical, process and system oriented challenges.
- Gained trust from other departments and team members relating to problem solving, analytical abilities, system development and maintenance often in business critical, time sensitive situations.

Software Engineer, ADI Limited/Thales Australia — 2003 - 2008

Junior software engineer working on a variety of projects. Achievements and responsibilities include:

- Member of a team of software engineers customising Eurocopter's Tiger helicopter to the Australian Army's requirements using ADA83.
- Creation and maintenance of a web-based timesheet system in PHP.
- .NET 2.0 Rich Client specifications, design and development using C# for a radio message test tool.

EDUCATION

University of Technology, Sydney — Honours in Bachelor of Engineering (Software), Diploma of Engineering Practice - 2006

Lithgow High School — Higher School Certificate (93.95 UAI) – 2000

OTHER

I blog occasionally at <http://bottledup.net> although not as often as I would like. I tweet at <http://twitter.com/lgarvey> about many things, but mostly web-development. I enjoy talking about web-development stuff at the Sydney Ruby meetup (RORO) and enjoy teaching Rails to anyone willing to listen. I'm sad that I didn't discover the wonderful Ruby community earlier in my career as I finally believe I have found my calling. Apart from programming, I enjoy getting fit, riding my motorbike, snowboarding and using what little time I have left to play computer games.