Leon Stafford

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I have a broad range of skill sets in IT, having grown up with an IT manager as a father and playing around with behemoth hardware since a toddler.

As a teenager, I was motivated by ways to squeeze the most bandwidth from < 1,000 baud modems in order to get the latest software, games or media.

Early attempts for people to introduce me to programming failed. I could think of nothing less fun than learning C++ for the sake of C++. I continued to master various operating systems and software and found myself working in systems administration as a teenager.

It was not until my early twenties, when I started to see the power of programming for automation. Working with Japan's #2 internet marketing company, I found PHP and bash scripting to be powerful tools for rapidly producing hundreds of sites.

Fast forward to the present and I've accumulated years of experience developing and managing large web systems for companies, worked in many countries and in various management and hands-on roles within the software development industry.

Technical Skills

Likes: build-automation git vim browser-automation python ruby shell product-management

Dislikes: outlook windows iis

Experience

Development Manager – sleepbus.org   *Jun 2017 → Current*
ruby-on-rails, php, docker, continuous-integration, amazon-web-services, devops, jira, git

Coming on board to work with the director and manage their website planning and development. I modernised their platform, bringing Continuous Integration, Automated Deployments and Infrastructure as Code using AWS and other leading industry services. We are currently building out an API to serve as a data source for 3rd parties, as well as to feed mobile apps and a modernised web app.

DevOps Engineer – Masterton Open Source Technology   *Jun 2016 → Oct 2016*
docker, bash, amazon-web-services, node.js, ruby, git

Contracting out to my former employer, I design, implement and optimise infrastructure for a modern, cloud-hosted web application. Trying to remain pragmatic and finding a healthy balance between simple and flexible tooling and processes.

QA Automation Lead – CRS Software   *Jul 2014 → Jun 2016*
ruby-on-rails, vagrant, angularjs, packer, docker, jenkins, bash, git

I was brought in specifically for test automation within an Agile team. Whilst achieving this, I looked at the current SDLC and sought to strengthen the areas needing most attention at the time. This has seen me working in the design/planning phase, through to development and system monitoring.

Test Automation Lead – Xero   *Oct 2013 → Jul 2014*
c#, ruby, javascript, specflow, python

I was brought in to change the testing culture across all head office teams and skill up manual QA Engineers to use BDD and automation tools in a more efficient process. I worked with the Reporting team to help plan and build new features.

Project/Product Manager – UniversalTech Inc.   *Oct 2012 → Mar 2013*
jira, amazon-web-services, applescript, zend-framework, agile

Getting intimate with the client's business requirements, developing a plan and executing are my day to day functions.

Working in a striving to be agile product development team and sometimes wearing the hats of developer, UX consultant and internet marketer.

My assigned client is ExploreTalent.com, where I'm on the team tasked with taking a 10+ year established and profitable website with over 7.5million users and bring it inline with modern websites to enhance user experience and profitability, while developing new features in parallel via remote teams.

UX Developer – MakeUseOf.com   *2012 → 2012*
jquery, php, xhtml, basecamp

As part of the web development team, I helped execute a few upgrades to the site, both client-facing and for the back of operations.

A large trafficked site, there were ample opportunities to put on my problem solving hat and work with other developers to put out fires.

I gained my first experiences with gamification at MakeUseOf.com and the ins and outs of integrating Javascript based social and user management systems.

Product Manager for the Philippines' largest online fashion store – Zalora.com.ph   *Jan 2012 → Aug 2012*
zend-framework, yii, jira, redmine

Responsible for rapidly rolling out the client and admin sides of our web app, whilst facilitating the technical needs of the other business divisions. Liaised with the framework team out of Berlin and hired over 90 local software development staff to work in Agile teams.

Internet Consultant – App Savvy   *Jan 2006 → Dec 2011*
php, codeigniter, wordpress, jquery, bash, mysql

I specialised in managing internet marketing and web systems application development. Utilising a strong team of workers across several continents, specialising in xHTML/CSS/jQuery/PHP web development, SEM/SEO and iPhone business applications development.

In this period, I implemented effective systems to manage hundreds of niche marketing websites for a few clients.

Proprietary market analysis tools were also developed to better serve my clients.

Certifications

ISTQB Foundation Certificate in Software Testing   *Jul 2014 → Current*
testing

Projects & Interests

Stack Overflow – https://stackoverflow.com/users/1668057/leon-stafford   *Sep 2012 → Current*
Written 73 answers. Active in python.

Public Artifacts

Amazon Web Services Allow For Lower Startup Costs — EzineArticles – http://ezinearticles.com/?Amazon-Web-   *2009*
Services-Allow-For-Lower-Startup-Costs&id=5499728

When starting up a new online service, companies can find many advantages when utilizing some of Amazon's AWS platforms. As an experienced developer, I have used several of these services and can…

Using A VPN To Encrypt Your Internet Traffic — EzineArticles – http://ezinearticles.com/?Using-A-VPN-To-Encrypt-   *2009*
Your-Internet-Traffic&id=5531628

With more and more people spending a large part of their lives online these days, privacy is becoming a concern for many users. VPN's offer increased security, privacy and in some cases speed for all…

Outsourcing IT Projects - Pros and Cons — EzineArticles – http://ezinearticles.com/?Outsourcing-IT-Projects---Pros-   *2009*
and-Cons&id=5529369

As the director of a small internet and development consulting firm, I have been both the outsourcee and outsourcer in my career. Seeing both ends of the environment certainly helps me to make better…

Apps & Software

天ぷら侍 for iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad – https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tianpura-shi/id359076692?mt=8   *2008*
ios, core-image

Interactive Tempura frying game targeting the domestic Japanese market.

This was my 2nd iOS app on contract to a Tokyo based company. I was the lead architect/developer, working with client supplied artwork.

つかしん | HOME – http://www.tsukashin.com/   *2006*
php, flash, jquery

尼崎市北部の大型ショッピングセンター。アル・プラザと約200の専門店をはじめ、天然温泉、スポーツクラブなどの施設があります。街の中心を伊丹川が流れ憩いのガーデンスペースを有する一日中楽しめる商業施設です。

As lead architect & developer, I worked alongside the design team to produce a full frontend/backend solution for this large Japanese shopping mall.

Readings

The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable – Nassim Nicholas Taleb – http://www.amazon.com/The-Black-Swan-Impact-Improbable/dp/0141034599%3FSubscriptionId%3DAKIAIIBINOD46VC3JCLQ%26tag%3Dstackoverfl08-20%26linkCode%3Dxm2%26camp%3D2025%26creative%3D165953%26creativeASIN%3D0141034599

Confirmed I was not alone in my thoughts - just because something has not happened yet does not mean it cannot happen.

Trust Agents: Using the Web to Build Influence, Improve Reputation, and Earn Trust – Chris Brogan, Julien Smith – http://www.amazon.com/Trust-Agents-Influence-Improve-Reputation/dp/0470635495%3FSubscriptionId%3DAKIAIIBINOD46VC3JCLQ%26tag%3Dstackoverfl08-20%26linkCode%3Dxm2%26camp%3D2025%26creative%3D165953%26creativeASIN%3D0470635495

Having achieved some early success in social engineering and online marketing, this book added great high level concepts and practical examples of how to build an online presence.

Mastering Regular Expressions – Jeffrey E.F. Friedl – http://www.amazon.com/Mastering-Regular-Expressions-Jeffrey-Friedl/dp/0596528124%3FSubscriptionId%3DAKIAIIBINOD46VC3JCLQ%26tag%3Dstackoverfl08-20%26linkCode%3Dxm2%26camp%3D2025%26creative%3D165953%26creativeASIN%3D0596528124

Regular expressions had always scared me, but having a hard copy book somehow made it all seem less daunting.

Conquer the Chaos: How to Grow a Successful Small Business Without Going Crazy – Clate Mask, Scott Martineau – http://www.amazon.com/Conquer-Chaos-Successful-Business-Without/dp/0470599324%3FSubscriptionId%3DAKIAIIBINOD46VC3JCLQ%26tag%3Dstackoverfl08-20%26linkCode%3Dxm2%26camp%3D2025%26creative%3D165953%26creativeASIN%3D0470599324

I should probably read this again as I take on more clients and face the boundaries of scalability.

The Zappos Experience: 5 Principles to Inspire, Engage, and WOW – Joseph Michelli – http://www.amazon.com/The-Zappos-Experience-Principles-Inspire/dp/0071749586%3FSubscriptionId%3DAKIAIIBINOD46VC3JCLQ%26tag%3Dstackoverfl08-20%26linkCode%3Dxm2%26camp%3D2025%26creative%3D165953%26creativeASIN%3D0071749586

Continually one of my most liked companies. Sorry I had to be part of the German juggernaut trying to clone them!

Tools

First Computer:	PowerBook G3 500Mhz, 20GB 512MB RAM
Favorite Editor:	Vim - Because I've not yet tried entering the dark side of Emacs :)