



Lowell Kitchen

Experienced Software Engineer, Payments & Political Organizing

Phone: 617-639-4238

Location: Rockport, Massachusetts, United States

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lowellkitchen/>

Email: lowell@lowellkitchen.com

- Software engineer with over two decades of experience in scalable software engineering and product development.
- 15+ years of expertise in technical design and development of political organizing and fundraising platforms that has powered the digital operations of major political campaigns and progressive causes globally.
- Proven track record in leading product engineering teams that deliver high impact results.

EXPERIENCE

Bonterra, Remote

Oct 2023 - Jan 2025

Lead Software Engineer, Payments

- Lead a product engineering team focused on payment processing & fundraising features for EveryAction & NGP VAN.
- Lead the technical design, development, and support efforts for major Stripe Connect and PayPal integrations.
- Optimized Stripe Connect integrations to reduce payments fraud and 'false positive' fraud blocking, saving Bonterra clients hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Bonterra, Remote

Mar 2022 - Jan 2024

Software Team Lead

- Lead an engineering team developing political organizing and fundraising software for the EveryAction & NGP VAN platform.
- Designed and developed major integration between NGP VAN and the Facebook Ads platform.

EveryAction, Remote

Dec 2019 - Mar 2022

Software Team Lead

- Lead an engineering team developing political organizing and fundraising software for the EveryAction & NGP VAN platform.

EveryAction, Remote

Jun 2019 - Dec 2019

Senior Software Engineer

TOP SKILLS

- Team leadership
- Software design & development
- Political organizing & CRM systems
(NGP VAN & EveryAction)
- Payment platforms
(Stripe, Stripe Connect, & PayPal)

- Design and development of political organizing and fundraising software for the BSD Tools, EveryAction & NGP VAN platforms.

Blue State Digital, Remote

Jul 2015 - Jun 2019

Senior Software Engineer

- Full stack application design and development of online community mobilization and fundraising software known as the BSD Tools.

Game Show Network (GSN Games), Waltham, MA

Feb 2013 - Jul 2015

Lead Software Engineer

- Full stack web application development using Perl, PHP, MySQL, MongoDB, Informix, HTML/CSS, Javascript, & Apache for online gaming platforms WorldWinner & GSN Games

Blue State Digital, Boston, MA

Jun 2006 - Feb 2013

Software Engineer

- Contributed to the development of new features for the BSD Tools platform. Involved in all aspects of development from database schema design and back end coding to making the front end beautiful with HTML5, CSS3 and JavaScript.
- Also responsible for helping maintain over 500 installations of third party content management systems (mostly ExpressionEngine).

Blue Fox, Shelburne Falls, MA

Oct 2004 - Jun 2006

Web Application Developer

- Lead the development of web sites and web applications for clients including MIT and small businesses.
- Performed basic web server administration tasks including configuring Apache and MySQL.

JC Danczak, Inc, Westfield, MA

Jan 2003 - Sept 2004

Web Manager

- Managed all aspects of the company's online presence.
- Designed and implemented ecommerce web site and online marketing strategy.
- Tripled yearly sales revenue in less than one year.

Holyoke Community College, Holyoke, MA

Sept 2003 - Jan 2004

Adjunct Technology Instructor

- Developed course curriculum and taught classes in web development using Macromedia Dreamweaver.

Gravity Switch, Northampton, MA

Feb 2000 - Jan 2003

Web Developer

- Concentrated on front end web development for businesses of all sizes and many higher education institutions.
- Collaborated on development custom e-commerce and content management systems using ColdFusion and MS Access.

Hampshire Educational Collaborative, Northampton, MA

Mar 1999 - Aug 2004

Technology Instructor

- Developed course curriculum and taught adult basic education computer literacy courses.

EDUCATION

The University of Georgia

Jan 1997 - Dec 1999

RECOMMENDATIONS

Annie Jaxon

Oct 2019

Technical Project Manager, Blue State Digital

Lowell excels in all he does. His role-specific knowledge is among the best in the business. Lowell is a Tools guru. His knowledge of our product is deep, and he's especially talented in understanding its limitations and devising workarounds. He's seamlessly elevated his role to take on more of a leadership position on the team. He's helped guide fellow devs to hone their skills and instructed them on novel concepts. He's also helped research and inform prospective projects and new work efforts. He'll readily be a second set of eyes on tickets, help brainstorm solutions, and advise during roadblocks. This collaboration carries across teams and Lowell willingly contributes where his knowledge is needed. Lowell does a great job of communicating via all channels. He clearly articulates himself in status updates, problems encountered, proposed fixes, releases, demos, documentation, etc. Lowell also keeps his eyes open for opportunities to innovate. He in a constant mindset of leaving our product and systems better than he found it. Lowell is an expert level problem solver. Lowell is great at thinking outside the box and finding solutions to extremely complex problems. It is rare that he is truly stumped. He is a mastermind at feasible workarounds. He takes into account the end result and the most elegant and sustainable way to get there. When developing, he solves for the present, while accounting for future use and scale. His development decisions are informed and reliable. The work he delivers is timely, well thought out, and soundly executed. He always delivers what is scoped and often augments with some bonus functionality where easily able. Lowell is a quiet leader. His experience and deep knowledge command respect and the team looks to him for guidance. He has comfortably and unassumingly taken this role on. He leads by example, but will also subtly check other devs if they seem to stray off course. Lowell's importance to the Tools team cannot be emphasized enough. He has unparalleled productivity, deep knowledge with a quick recall, and an

effortlessly collaborative spirit with all colleagues. He is thoughtful, dependable, efficient, and logical. He is pleasant to work with and a great teammate. Aces top to bottom!

Conrad Hollomon

Aug 2015

Game Show Network (GSN Games)

I had the pleasure to working with Lowell when he was the lead engineer on our web development team. Lowell is patient and hardworking - the type of person to always bear his share of the load, and then some. It's great working with him, because he is always willing to take the time to listen to your perspective, and to show you how to solve a problem. The last part is critical, because being a QA engineer, I rely heavily on developers like Lowell to walk me through their code and help me understand how it ticks. A true professional, I would work with him again without hesitation.

Diane Kaplan

Feb 2013

Director of Development, Blue State Digital

Lowell has been a huge contributor to the team. He stays consistently on track (or ahead) through long term projects, and in a pinch he's good at finding fast, short-term solutions to critical problems. Despite his exceptionally high throughput, he relates to others with patience and a cooperative spirit no matter how busy he is.

Equally as impressive are his communication & collaboration skills. Lowell is dependable, respectful of others, and invaluable in team meetings. He's able to explain things with clarity and patience to a variety of audiences (and is therefore often recruited to assist during sales calls), and he raises concerns/challenges in a very neutral and productive way. When he's confronted by someone on a very different page, his demeanor remains positive and clear, which brings the spirit of the conversation back to a positive direction.

He's exceptionally responsive to QA during testing, both in answering their questions and providing context, as well as in turning around fixes for them quickly (and finally), and he always shows a real willingness to help his teammates. Lowell's one of the best!

PROJECTS

NGP VAN

2019 - 2025

<https://www.ngpvan.com>

The premier political organizing platform used by the Democratic party.

BSD Tools

2006 - 2019

BSD Tools was a digital toolset developed by Blue State Digital that pioneered a number of innovations in political and nonprofit

technology, including one-click contributions and multi-step contribution forms. The BSD Tools was acquired by NGP VAN in 2019.

