Michael Berkowitz

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http://songsaboutsnow.com

EXPERIENCE

Software Engineer, PatientsLikeMe

Cambridge, MA — August 2010 - present

I am part of an engineering team working to maintain and improve a 7-year-old Rails application focused on improving healthcare by empowering patients to share their own experiences and learn from the experiences of others.

Accomplishments:

- Helped transition PatientsLikeMe from supporting a limited set of diseases to a framework allowing patients to monitor and track data for any condition.
- Rewrote significant portions of the PatientsLikeMe forums, the site's most popular feature, in order to improve both patient experience and code maintainability.
- Updated PatientsLikeMe to run on Ruby 1.9.3, and helped migrate the app from Rails 2 to Rails 3.
- Working closely with internal stakeholders, built a standalone app providing a forum for select active members of the PatientsLikeMe patient community and the product and business development teams to discuss upcoming and proposed changes to the PatientsLikeMe patient experience.
- Developed tools to aid internal QA testers by allowing them to quickly switch between different patient and admin roles.
- Assumed operations duties after the departure of our previous dev-ops team, particularly maintaining the state of production and staging servers, and monitoring production deployments.

Technologies used: Ruby, Rails, PostgreSQL, Javascript/Coffeescript, HTML/Haml, CSS/Sass, Capistrano, Git

Developer, SmartLogic Solutions, LLC

Baltimore, MD — September 2008 - February 2010

I joined SmartLogic, a Rails consulting company, as employee number seven. This allowed me to work on several projects with more experienced developers, while also being given the trust and autonomy to develop client applications on my own.

Accomplishments:

- Worked on both legacy and greenfield Rails applications across many fields, including browser games, health care, and finance.
- Built an extension to the AASM state machine gem to support a role-based versioning system for ActiveRecord models (http://github.com/mikowitz/aasm).
- Learned Objective-C in order to write and release the company's first iOS app, a custom RSS reader for a client's news feed.

Technologies used: Ruby, Rails, Objective-C, Javascript, HTML/Haml, CSS/Sass, Subversion

Developer, Center for History and New Media, George Mason University
Fairfax, VA — July 2007 - August 2008

I was part of a small team of developers working on Zotero, a browser extension for citation management.

Accomplishments:

- Built translators allowing users to collect and store metadata from over 100 online sources, including college library catalogs, WorldCat, publication databases, news organizations, open access journals such as the Public Library of Science, and even commercial websites like Amazon.
- Built templates for citation formats using CSL, an open XML-based language for formatting citations and biliographies.
- Helped design and implement the first version of the Zotero web interface in Zend.

Technologies used: Javascript, Zend/PHP, XML, Mozilla development and debugging tools

RECENT PROJECTS

Hall of Stats - An alternate Hall of Fame populated by a mathematical formula
http://www.hallofstats.com
http://github.com/adarowski/Hall-of-Stats

Crony - A spell-checker for cron, translating cron expressions into human-readable sentences.
http://github.com/mikowitz/crony

Cronti.me - A web interface for the Crony gem
http://cronti.me

Other projects - http://github.com/mikowitz

EDUCATION

Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH
B.A. Latin and Green Language and Literature: 2007
   Book Prize for Outstanding First Year Latin Student: 2004
   Book Prize for Outstanding First Year Greek Student: 2005
   Classics Alumni Prize (for excellence in the study of Greek and Latin): 2007
Studied Composition at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music: 2003-2006