

# Nicholas Young

digital artist & software  
consultant

P.O. Box 5802  
Evanston, IL 60204  
(312) 685-2109  
<http://nicholaswyoung.com>

## Selected Professional References:

*"Heading up customer relations for a company that defines itself by personal interaction with users means it's not enough to work with developers who merely code."*

*Nicholas has an innate intuition of how people interact with software and it comes across beautifully in the code he writes: sleek, effective and developed to be used by people! It's rare to find a developer who genuinely combines style, substance and sophistication in code. Nicholas does!"*

- Dean Levitt, Head of Support & Chief of Culture at Mad Mimi

*"Nicholas is a PHP and analytical ninja. His energy and spirit are a pleasure to have around. I would recommend Nicholas as an outspoken, eager and extremely knowledgeable guy."*

- Dave Delaney, Social Media Coordinator at Griffin Technology

*"I highly recommend Nicholas. My website is most impressive, and has proven to be very helpful in expanding my business. Nicholas operates on the cutting edge... and I am very happy to have him guiding my business into this brave new world."*

- Bobby Horton, musical historian and recording artist

## Objectives:

To work with, or create a well-constructed team of web professionals who care about software craftsmanship, iterative development, and solid user experience. To push the boundaries of what is possible, continue growing my skill set, and encourage others to do so as well.

## Skills:

- Web & Print Design (Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign)
- Web Markup (Specializing in HTML5 & CSS3)
- Software Development & Analysis (in PHP, Python, Ruby, & Javascript)
- Systems Administration & DevOps
- Database Schema Design (Specializing in MongoDB, but also available for MySQL)
- Data Visualization & Analysis
- Public Speaking/Evangelism/Community Management

## Experience:

### Founder, Original Machine | Aug. 2010 - Now

As an extension of my consulting work (see below), after moving to Chicago, I founded Original Machine - a firm dedicated to researching, designing, and implementing bleeding-edge web technologies.

Recent experiments involved using Redis as a transport mechanism between a backend application (currently written in C), a MongoDB datastore, and a Node.js web stack that utilizes Websockets (with a fallback to Flash sockets or Comet) to deliver real-time updates to the user. This stack will eventually develop into a production-ready application.

### Ruby on Rails engineer, DevOps, Sales, & Developer Relations, Mad Mimi | Mar. 2010 - July 2010

In five short months at Mad Mimi, I was responsible for increasing stability of the company's rapidly growing email marketing platform (from 367,323 uniques/mo to over 600,000), developing new features, negotiating with the hosting provider, customer support, and developer relations.

Early on, I surveyed business needs and discussed my findings with the CEO. Areas I found that could be improved:

- \* Client-facing API documentation
- \* Client API libraries
- \* Hardware procurement & configuration.

In part, to improve these areas my work consisted of:

- Increasing stability, concurrency, and speed of the Rails 2.3.5 application, Resque workers, and PowerMTA mail agents.
- Migrating the application to Rails 2.3.8, and laying groundwork for a migration to Rails 3.0.0.
- Improving the client-facing API documentation by creating a wiki that could be edited by staff members or client developers. This allowed

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## Selected Professional References:

*"Nicholas is a highly motivated, gifted entrepreneur with a bright future. ... His ideas for the music industry are outstanding, and his skills in programming are superior to his peers."*

- Kevin Thompson, Attorney

*"Nicholas is a highly professional new media expert. I'm proud to work with him on a regular basis."*

- Zack Daggy, producer of "The Mothpod" on the Mevio network, and accomplished fiction author

*"Nicholas is a very passionate and skilled web technologist. ... I'm sorry that Nashville has lost him to Chicago, because he is a true talent."*

- Marcus Whitney, Co-Founder and CTO of Moontoast

everyone to freely share knowledge, and enhanced every developer's experience with the API.

- Developing and executing the company's open-source initiative, which produced reference quality API wrappers in Ruby, Python, PHP, and .NET.
- Acting as a liaison between the company, and various members of the open-source community to aid development of several platform-specific API integrations (e.g. a Wordpress plugin for sending transactional emails through Mad Mimi).
- Negotiations with the hosting provider to ensure the correct hardware was procured, racked, online, and maintained.
- Providing sales and support to large clients who were currently using, or planned to use the API.
- Discussed MySQL schema redesign for tables larger than 4 million rows.

### Founder, ArtistOne | Aug. 2007 - Feb. 2010

In 2007, I moved to Nashville, Tennessee. After consulting solo for a few months, I realized many local artists and startups needed something unique. Meshing my background as an independent IT consultant, with a passion for small businesses - I founded ArtistOne - a unique web design & development firm.

Rather than having in-house staff, I assembled a team for each project from talented freelancers in our local community. No project was too large, and even if the project's scope changed, so could the team.

While in Nashville, I:

- Designed and constructed multiple PHP, Ruby on Rails, and Python web applications for startups, mostly those with minimal technical knowledge. During the construction, I served not only as their software architect, but also as a guide - offering advice to help scale, market, and iterate on the product following release.
- Worked with the Nashville Geek Community to help produce community building events like BarCamp Nashville.
- Served as an adjunct professor at Nashville State Community College, teaching both basic and advanced web development courses.
- Implemented solutions for clients with Joomla, Drupal, and Wordpress when a fully-custom solution wasn't required.
- Constructed a music metrics platform written in PHP and Python. For the first time, ArtistOne Analytics allowed artists and record labels to gather and review download statistics from peer-to-peer networks. This statistical data was then overlaid on a map, for easy navigation. This product garnered quite a bit of press.

### Independent IT Consultant | Jan. 2004 - July 2007

Prior to living in Nashville, I served businesses across north Alabama as an independent IT consultant. In short, I delivered:

- Design and development backed by PHP/MySQL
- Consulting services aimed at creating or improving in-house software or hardware solutions. Predominantly, how to maintain the quality of their systems, while decreasing their IT budget.