About Misty Mountain Group

I am Robert. I started writing code for fun in high school and instantly became addicted to software development. I started on IBM mainframe computers at banks. I worked in assembler because I could understand how the hardware processed commands. At another job, I was working with performance and capacity planning for a bank. While there, I wrote a tool which dug into the operating system to show performance related data. I submitted that product to a contest and won a big (for the time) Sony TV. I played with the microcomputers back when they could only one thing at a time. I could see no purpose in using them, until I came across a product called Sidekick. Press a key and have a calculator or notepad popup over the thing you were working on giving you multitasking capability. I was one over and that set the next direction of my career.

I switched to PC software development where I developed a scripted way to connect PCs to mainframe screen to capture data. I opened my own company to represent me as I learned the hard way that just telling people you could write great code was not enough to make a living. I ended up with contracting gigs. A couple of gigs at IBM and even a stint as am employee helped me realize I needed to improve my ‘people skills’. I quit IBM and went back to gig work. For fifteen years I was really good at system architecture, but I was still lacking in the ‘people skills’. I gave up trying to convince people I could design their systems and retreated back to gig work.

After a gig at a large company at their remote site, I was offered a job. I entered the next stage of my career. Without attempting to accomplish a leadership role, they promoted me into the tech lead and then team lead roles. I developed sufficient people skills to accomplish the jobs assigned. Learning to work with a diverse technical team and manages from different areas within the corporation, from software to business, was the hardest jobs I have ever learned. ‘People skills’ is much harder than software development.

Now I am back to my roots, I write software for fun!

Contact

First AI rendention:

About Misty Mountain Group

Robert's journey in software development began as a high school hobby, quickly evolving into a lifelong passion. His career spans decades, showcasing adaptability and a constant drive for learning.

Early Career

Robert's professional journey started with IBM mainframe computers at banks, where he worked in assembler language. This experience provided him with a deep understanding of hardware-software interaction. During a stint in performance and capacity planning, he developed a tool that delved into the operating system to display performance-related data, winning a Sony TV in a contest.

Transition to PC Development

The advent of microcomputers initially left Robert skeptical until he encountered Sidekick, a revolutionary multitasking tool. This discovery sparked his interest in PC software development, leading him to create a scripted method for connecting PCs to mainframe screens for data capture.

Entrepreneurial Ventures and Personal Growth

Recognizing the importance of business acumen alongside technical skills, Robert established his own company. This move led to various contracting opportunities, including roles at IBM. These experiences highlighted the critical nature of interpersonal skills in the tech industry.

System Architecture and Leadership

For 15 years, Robert excelled in system architecture. However, challenges in communicating his expertise led him back to contract work. A turning point came when a remote gig transformed into a full-time position, unexpectedly propelling him into leadership roles.

Leadership and People Skills

As a tech lead and team lead, Robert faced his greatest challenge yet: developing the interpersonal skills necessary to manage diverse technical teams and collaborate with various corporate departments. This experience proved more demanding than any technical challenge he had faced before.

Current Focus

Today, Robert has come full circle, returning to his roots of writing software for the sheer joy of creation.

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About Misty Mountain Group: A Journey Through Code and Beyond

Hi there! I'm Robert, and I'd love to share my adventure in the world of software development with you. It all began in high school when I caught the coding bug, and I've been hooked ever since!My journey started on IBM mainframes at banks, where I dove deep into assembler code. I loved how it connected me directly to the hardware's inner workings. During a stint in performance and capacity planning, I created a tool that peered into the operating system's performance data. To my surprise and delight, it won me a fancy Sony TV in a contest – quite the prize back then!

From Mainframes to PCs: A Pivotal Shift

Remember when microcomputers could only do one thing at a time? I certainly do! Initially, I couldn't see their appeal until I discovered Sidekick. This nifty program allowed you to pop up a calculator or notepad over your work, giving a taste of multitasking. It was a game-changer that set the course for my career's next chapter. Transitioning to PC software development, I crafted a scripted method to connect PCs with mainframe screens for data capture. This led me to start my own company – a valuable lesson in realizing that great coding skills alone weren't enough to make a living. I found myself taking on various contracting gigs, including a couple at IBM.

The Human Side of Tech: A Challenging Learning Curve

My time at IBM taught me a crucial lesson: I needed to improve my 'people skills.' For the next 15 years, I excelled in system architecture but struggled to convince others of my design capabilities. Eventually, I retreated to gig work, feeling defeated. A turning point came when a remote gig at a large company turned into a job offer. Unexpectedly, I found myself promoted to tech lead and then team lead roles. This new chapter presented my greatest challenge yet: developing the people skills necessary to lead diverse technical teams and work with managers across different areas of the corporation.

Full Circle: Coding for Joy

Now, I'm back to where it all began – writing software for the sheer joy of it! This journey has taught me that while coding can be complex, mastering 'people skills' is truly the most challenging and rewarding aspect of a career in tech. I hope my story resonates with you and perhaps inspires your own tech journey. Remember, it's not just about the code – it's about the connections we make along the way!

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