# Shimon Rura

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A current version of this document is always available at http://rura.org/shimon.

**Summary:** Hacker turned product manager. I help strong teams succeed by building the right product.

## **Employment**

**Director, Open Research Exchange, PatientsLikeMe, December 2012–present.** Manage software, design, marketing, and research teams on the Open Research Exchange (ORE) project. ORE is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to facilitate the creation of better health measurements based on patient-reported data across a broad range of diseases. Responsibilities include overall product delivery; commercialization; coordination of software, design, and marketing staff; and relationship with our funder.

**Director of Product Management, Smarterer, August 2011–December 2012.** Responsible for developing and communicating product vision, defining and prioritizing features, tracking performance metrics, running user research, and helping management, dev, and design teams work together smoothly.

**Co-founder, NodeRabbit, Inc., August 2010–August 2011.** Built DjangoZoom, a Platform-as-a-Service for web applications using the open source Django framework. While bootstrapped, we developed a technically complex product, built a following in the Django community, gathered a substantial waiting list, and brought in subscription revenue.

Freelance Software Developer (self-employed), June 2008–March 2011. Shipped dozens of customer projects, from prototypes to flagship products. Example: CloudLock, a usage and security analysis tool for Google Docs. CloudLock grew from a skunkworks project to promising revenue over 3 part-time months with me as the sole technical contributor, leading the company to pivot and focus exclusively on this product. Additional examples include Neo-Collect, an online community site for collectors of fine and decorative arts; Gigblastr.com, an event publishing/promotion tool; and Whozaround, a facebook application designed to help you gather with friends. Tools/languages include Python, Django, Google AppEngine, PostgreSQL, and Twisted.

**Board of Directors, Photo.net, May 2006–April 2007.** Starting with a business that was in debt and stagnating due to years of management neglect, the new board and CEO revived this community site (then 5M monthly uniques). Improvements led to a successful acquisition in April 2007 by NameMedia, Inc.

Member of Technical Staff, Renesys Corp., October 2005–May 2008. Tech lead on a personalized social chat application; front-end engineer on Internet transit market intelligence application.

**Software Engineer, Kronos, Inc., August 2003–October 2005.** Worked in 20-developer Workforce HR/Payroll product team on a 1.8-million-line SQL/ASP.NET/Visual Basic.NET enterprise software application. Developed Ajax/DHTML interface for Workforce Scheduler, a J2EE/Struts application transitioning from Java applets to Ajax.

### **Education**

**Williams College, Sep 1999—Jun 2003.** B.A., Computer Science. Senior honors thesis on Refactoring Aspect-Oriented Software.

### **Skills**

**Product Design.** Ethnographic interviews, usability testing, wireframing (paper, Balsamiq).

**Analytics.** Quantitative and qualitative goal-setting and evaluation. A/B testing. Google Analytics, Mixpanel.

**Project Management.** Kanban and agile development styles. Roadmapping. General management including P&L responsibility. Hiring & team development.

**Software Development.** Python, Javascript, SQL, Git, HTML, CSS, Google AppEngine, Emacs, TDD.

### **Activities & Achievements**

- Mentored students in MIT course 6.171, Software Engineering for Internet Applications, February–May 2006. Co-taught a 3-day intensive course on relational databases at MIT IAP, January 2011 and January 2012.
- Lead organizer of BarCamp Boston, an unconference for local techies.
- Created the Voo2do task management system (http://voo2do.com), a free online task tracker designed to be easy and fun to use. Has grown to over 70,000 registered users. August 2005–present.
- Singer in classical choirs and a rock band.

#### References

References will be provided on request.