Salman Quazi

My focus is innovation and bringing new ideas into products. I have more than 12 years of software development experience building successful web and scalable cloud services, while managing large, diverse multi-site teams.

818.648.1722
salman.quazi@gmail.com
www.salmanq.com
linkedin.com/in/salmanquazi

Senior Engineering Manager at Microsoft from Jun. 2014 – Present, Sunnyvale, CA
The Applications Services Group (ASG) of Microsoft includes Bing, Skype, and Office. Part of the Bing organization I focused on Language & Intent technologies to support conversational scenarios in Cortana as well as focusing on automation of various types of unsupervised model generation for web, and speech queries.

- Delivered high-performance, low latency text-to-speech engine service
- Building a cloud API and self-service approach to build, flight, models (acoustic, language, classifiers) for Bing.com, as well as Cortana.

Senior Technical Lead at Microsoft from Sept. 2013 – Jun. 2014, Sunnyvale, CA
I worked in the Conversational Understanding team within Bing Platform. Responsible for overall architecture and technical leadership of the core cloud conversational understanding system. Conceptualized and designed the underlying pipeline framework which is holistically responsible for the overall message orchestration, between the client and the service.

- Designed and developed plugin-based architecture which allowed teams including applied scientists, researches, and product developers, from around the world to build richer Cortana functionality.
- Developed a feature on Cortana that allowed on-device and cloud recognition to seamlessly work together to improve overall recognition (patented) – a key differentiating factor in the Windows Phone Speech APIs.
- Designed and implemented a high-performance web-server which is host agnostic, and protocol agnostic. Included support for WebSocket, HTTP 2.0, among others – supporting the ability to add middleware components like authentication, routing.
- Conceptualized and worked with the scientists to build a cloud based speech arbitrator, trained unsupervised based-on user correction logs.

Senior Software Engineer at Microsoft from Sept. 2012 – Sept. 2013, Sunnyvale, CA
I worked in the Bing Platform team focusing on Conversational Understanding as a cloud service for both Microsoft and third-party developers.

- Part of the original team to build the intelligent service fabric for Microsoft called Merino. Worked with various team to light up the WebSockets protocol in Bing.
- Specifically focused on the Speech Engine service piece of this Merino platform, rewrote a large part of the service to make it flexible to change as well as improve the testability of the overall software.
- Redesigned APIs to exposed richer functionalities like the confusion network, the lattice and the speech hypothesis – which helped improve user latencies.

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Specialties
Software Abstractions
Fault-tolerant Architectures
API Engineering
High-throughput Systems
Massively Parallel Services

Skillset
C#, .NET, ASP.NET, MVC
Reactive Extensions, LINQ
JavaScript, jQuery, PHP
Java, Python, Prolog
jQuery, angular.js, Knockout
C++, STL, WCF, REST, WS-*
WPF, Silverlight, XHTML/CSS
Windows Azure – IaaS/PaaS

Patents
Incorporating an Exogenous Large-Vocabulary Model into Rule-Based Speech Recognition (Pending)

Education
Mining Massive Data Sets
from Stanford University
Graduating 2015 (SCPD)

M.S. in Computer Science
from Cal State University, Northridge (Incomplete)

B.S. in Computer Science
from Cal State University, Northridge 2000 – 2004

Senior Software Engineer at Microsoft from Sept. 2010 – Sept. 2012, Redmond, WA
As a senior member and a development lead in the engineering team behind the next generation of Windows 8 Activation, I drove major scoping and architectural decisions, contributed to feature implementation, and provided technical direction and leadership.

- Designed, developed, and deployed highly scalable, highly distributed, and globally fault tolerant RESTful (WCF) APIs to improve Windows activations.
- Improved code quality by introducing design patterns with an end-goal towards a test-driven development team. Improved release cycle by restructuring codebase into feature-set level, deployable components
- Built a dynamically composable UX framework that leverages constrained based security model. This framework also included support for distributed service communication, caching, decoupled module communication.
- Played a pivotal role in solving complex WCF/Entity Framework related performance issues, as well as complex infrastructural issues relating to IPsec, and global-traffic-managers.
- Worked own various proof-of-concepts to influence the group to utilize Windows Azure. Leveraged, azure table storage, blob, queues, SQL Azure and service bus to move part of the infrastructure to the Azure cloud.
- Worked with the BizTalk team to integrate with SAP, SAP Process-Integration (PI), and Object-Event-Repository.

Principal Development Lead at UCLA from Jul. 2008 – Sept. 2010, Los Angeles, CA
I translated business goals and objectives into strategic solutions while leading a staff of five engineers comprised of developers, DBAs, and designers. Managed complex projects while serving as development lead, and Scrum Master, providing architectural frameworks for product development. Reviewed code, software patterns and branching policies to improve efficiencies; recommended process improvements across software development and implementation methods.

- Collaborated with a UCLA technical team to convert the entire student records system from flat to a relational DB2, resulting in the project being delivered on-time, and considered a very successful project at the institution.
- Recruited and led a technical team of highly skilled professionals and ensured talent retention by providing goal-setting initiatives, training, coaching, and timely performance management.
- Expanded code quality and knowledge transfer within the staff by performing meticulous reviews and conducting technical training sessions. Implemented Scrum and served as the Scrum Master.

Software Development Lead at UCLA from May 2006 – Jul. 2008, Los Angeles, CA
I worked with three engineers comprised of a database developer and web applications developer while serving as the lead developer for various intranet and internet web applications. Performed code reviews, and recommended most current technologies to improve processes and application development.

- Overhauled the entire student admissions process for the School of Law that led to substantial process improvements and an increased applicant pool by 25% while reducing the time spent during decision-making.
- Implemented ACES2, an online admissions application; authored several interfaces between ACES2 and Banner
- Implemented an n-tier environment with an entity layer based on LINQ to SQL and Entity Framework.
- Unified multiple schemes such as SharePoint and Shibboleth/SAML 2.0 into a central authentication (SSO – Single Sign on) using ASP.NET 3.5 Membership Provider; successfully deployed and integrated Active Directory Federation Services (ADFS) with Shibboleth, existing web applications, and SharePoint.

Software Development Lead at UCLA from Jul. 2005 – May 2006, Los Angeles, CA
Tested, debugged existing applications, developed new web applications, and built new web technologies to significantly enhance the school's efficiency by reducing paper-based processes.

- Implemented a large-scale content management system (CMS) now running as www.law.ucla.edu
- Converted the rendering engine (approximately 40%) of the CMS to ASP.NET 2.0 (C#) from classic ASP.
- Integrated with CyberPay, leveraging XML and XSLT technologies enabling the individual page look and feel so vital for multiple merchants as they pass through a single processing page.