Tarn Barford

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Skilled software engineer with extensive experience in developing, maintaining, deploying, and operating software systems. Excelled in diverse engineering roles, including individual contributor, consultant, mentor, technical lead, and manager. Known for fostering strong team relationships, being a valued contributor, and demonstrating effective leadership.

EXPERIENCE

Chief Technology Officer, brainsome GmbH / yourbook.shop   January 2023 – September 2023
- Formulated and communicated a compelling technical vision.
- Motivated and guided the work of the development team.
- Balanced feature delivery and the replacement of legacy systems.
- Achieved growth in sales, usage, and product range expansion in the first half of 2023.
- Reduced the codebase by 25%, removing over 100,000 lines of code during the first half of 2023.
- Cut monthly hosting costs by 25% in the first half of 2023.
- Devised a strategic plan to facilitate the orderly winding down of the business following the withdrawal of a significant investor.

Lead Developer, brainsome GmbH   June 2018 – December 2022
- Managed teams of internal and external developers, ensuring efficient collaboration and delivery of projects.
- Facilitated the transition of responsibilities from external teams to an internal team, overseeing the technical aspects of the process.
- Managed substantial business and technical hurdles with an offshore team, fostering the transfer of development and operational duties.
- Responsible for end-to-end software development, infrastructure management, and site reliability of multiple web properties.
- Technologies used; Java, Javascript, Go, Ruby, Postgresql, Redis, Elasticsearch, RabbitMQ, MongoDB, Puppet, Kubernetes, Icinga2, Bareos and Kibana.

Freelance   July 2015 - June 2018

Advertile Mobile GmbH
- Played a key role in devising creative and innovative solutions for tracking incentivized app installations on both Android and iOS platforms.
- Led the ongoing development of the AngularJS website which was the primary interface for the product.
- Contributed to the conception of features and incentives aimed at enhancing key metrics such as 7-day user retention rate.
- Conducted A/B tests to evaluate features' effectiveness and decisively continued or discarded them based on the outcomes.

2txt – natural language generation GmbH
- Proficiently performed data collection, cleaning, and formatting for NLP training purposes.
- Developed a web platform showcasing and facilitating the sale of NLP services.

brainsome GmbH
- Consultant specializing in search development, providing expert guidance and solutions.
- Substantial contributor to the Ruby on Rails project, significantly enhancing the development process and enabling the rapid delivery of features.

Retresco GmbH, Software Engineer   July 2012 - June 2015
- Collaborated as a developer in a team building a content recommender platform for major German newspapers.
- Provided expert consultation to diverse clients, specializing in integrating search and natural language capabilities into existing products.
- Actively engaged with the search and big data developer community, organizing and hosting meetups and workshops.

Freelance   January 2012 - May 2012

Get The World Moving
- Developed a product called Trailblazer for creating and sharing hiking trails.
- The product was successfully delivered on time and budget.
- It was built with Ruby on Rails, Redis, MySQL and Backbone and Google Maps.

Helsinki Agency, Software Engineer   December 2009 - January 2012
- Worked with creatives on successful pitches and implementations of innovative digital campaigns.
- Significant contributor on an event called Get The World Moving that was developed internally.
- Get The World Moving was split into its own company, acquired by Virgin Group and rebranded as Virgin Pulse.

Hardcat, Software Engineer   January 2009 - October 2009
- Co-contributor in the development of a .NET web interface to an Asset Management product written in C++.
- Collaborated with the C++ product team on the .NET integration and fixing bugs in the C++ API.
- Proposed various strategies to improve the .NET web interface feature set that were adapted.

think!, Software Engineer   January 2006 - January 2009
- Key contributor in a successful migration of a business-to-business price comparison e-commerce application from ASP to the .NET framework.
- Travelled with a product manager for four-week on-site collaboration in Ireland with OpenJaw Technologies to integrate flight booking capabilities.
- Lead developer of the integration OpenJaw platform to enable flight booking capabilities on the platform.

EDUCATION

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology   Melbourne, Australia
Bachelor of Engineering (Electronic), Honors Class 2a   March 2000 – May 2004
Coursera / Stanford Online
Machine Learning   December 2016

LANGUAGES

English: Native
German: B1

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Python, Typescript, Javascript, Ruby, Java, Clojure, SQL
Tools: neovim, tmux, git, bash, curl, kubectl, awscli, jq, xmllib2, gpg2, ssh, strace
Orchestration: Kubernetes, Helm, Puppet, Ansible
Cloud: AWS, GCP, Digitial Ocean, Hetzner
Monitoring: Icinga2, Logstash, Kibana, Munin, Prometheus, Grafana
CI: Jenkins, Gitlab CI
Virtualization: KVM, qemu, docker
Databases: Postgres, Elasticsearch, Redis, MongoDB, RabbitMQ
Webservers : Nginx, HAProxy, Apache
System Tools : systemd
Networking : UFW, Netfilter/iptables, ipconfig/ip, dig, nmap, tcpdump, netstat/ss, netcat, openssl
Linux Distributions: Debian, Ubuntu, NixOS, Arch Linix, Busybox
Frameworks: Spring Boot, Rails, Flask, Express.js, React