

Thomas Kappler

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Passionate Software Engineer with eight years of experience across a wide range of technologies, including excellent skills in Java, Go, SQL and NoSQL databases, Elasticsearch, Linux, and Azure.

Work Experience

2013-08–present **Microsoft**, Zürich: Software Development Engineer (II).

- Back-end developer and team lead on Microsoft Social Engagement, using Java, Elasticsearch, Lucene, and Azure including SQL, Service Bus, Blob Store, VMs.
- Co-author of two patents for determining significant phrases from text (in submission). Implemented on top of Elasticsearch.
- Attended MS Spring 2015 Machine Learning & Data Science conference

2011-04–2013-07 **Nhumi Technologies** and **Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften (zhaw)**, Zürich: Software Engineer.

- Full-stack developer on agile startup team of four.
- Developed and delivered medical applications such as healthcorpus in Java, JavaScript, Go, Python, Hadoop and Pig, SQL (sqlite, Postgres), MongoDB, LevelDB.
- Responsible for data import, processing and quality of Nhumi Drug Safety.
- Technical lead for Nhumi on the KTI research grant “NoSQL Data Warehouse” with zhaw.

2008-05–2011-04 **Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics**, Geneva: Developer.

- One of four developers on UniProt.org, bioinformatics resource with 30,000 visitors/day.
- Developed web applications from frontend to backend, in Java and JavaScript, using relational databases, Lucene, Berkeley DB, Wicket, Struts, jQuery, JSON.
- Presented at “Semantic Web: Applications and Tools for the Life Sciences” 2009, Biohackathon 2010 Tokyo, German Perl Workshop 2010. Gave internal training on Git and Perl best practices.

2007-10–2008-04 **University of Heidelberg**: Freelance developer.

- Developed an application (25 KLOC) for thesaurus editing, in Java using Wicket and Hibernate.
- Sole full-time developer from requirements analysis to delivering the first production version.
- Led two part-time programmers.

2005-07–2006-07 Karlsruhe Institute of Technology: Developer and research assistant.

- Wrote parsers, database and ontology tools for NLP research in Java and Python.

2004-05–2004-10 ZKM, Karlsruhe: PHP and SQL developer, Linux/Apache admin.

2000-08–2001-06 Rommel-Klinik hospital, Bad Wildbad: Civilian service as assistant nurse, working with severely disabled patients.

Open Source, Talks

Mostly published on github.com/thomas11.

Go: Core contributor (bug fixes), *atomgenerator* Atom feed package, *CSP* concurrency package, “Intro to Go” presentation at Google Developer Group DevFest Zurich 2012.

Meetups: Co-organizer of zhgeeks, a monthly technical meetup in Zurich. Recent subjects included Go, Riak architecture, Neo4J and AWS auto-scaling.

Emacs: Several extensions.

Perl: Presented at German Perl Workshop 2010 and FrOSCamp Zurich 2010 about RDF in Perl.

Education

2007-09 **Diplom-Informatiker**, corresponding to **Master of Computer Science**, grade 1.4* (very good). **Karlsruhe Institute of Technology**, Germany.

2007-02–2007-08 Master’s thesis at **IIT Delhi**, India, with Prof. Pankaj Jalote and Prof. Ralf Reussner, with a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) scholarship. Implemented an Eclipse plug-in to reverse engineer Java code. Grade 1.3 (very good)*.

2001-10–2007-09 Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany: Computer Science.
Focus on Information Retrieval (grade 1.3*) and Software Engineering (1.0).
Other subjects were education & pedagogics (1.7), and genetics (2.0).

2006-08 18th European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information, Malaga, Spain.

Publications (selection)

2011 N. Naderi, T. Kappler, Ch. J. O. Baker, and R. Witte. *OrganismTagger: Detection, Normalization, and Grounding of Organism Entities in Biomedical Documents*. Bioinformatics, vol. 27.

2009 J. Bolleman and T. Kappler. *Weekend Triple Billionaire*. Semantic Web: Applications and Tools for the Life Sciences 2009, Amsterdam.

2007 T. Kappler, H. Koziolk, K. Krogmann, and R. Reussner. *Towards Automatic Construction of Reusable Prediction Models for Component-Based Performance Engineering*. Proc. Software Engineering 2008, ser. LNI, vol. 121.

2006 R. Witte, T. Kappler, and Ch. J. O. Baker. *Ontology Design for Biomedical Text Mining in Semantic Web: Revolutionizing Knowledge Discovery in the Life Sciences*, Springer.

Other Skills

Coursera online course: “Machine Learning” with Andrew Ng, Stanford, with score of 100% (2013).

Stanford online course: “Introduction to Artificial Intelligence” with score of 88% (2012).

Programming: Non-professional use of Clojure, R, Erlang, C.

Version control: Used Git, Mercurial, Subversion, and CVS professionally.

Linux: LPI Certified Linux Administrator, junior level (2006).

Languages: Native German, excellent English, good French.

References

Ralf Gautschi: current manager. rgaut@microsoft.com.

More references gladly provided on request.

September 3, 2015

* German grades range from 1 (best) to 4 (worst).