

Timothy P. McMackin

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Summary

I simplify complicated software suites by providing thorough, useful information that guides customers through their tasks.

I lead teams that provide complete and continuously delivered information services for software products, guiding them to stay coordinated and to cover all aspects of the products.

I work directly with developers and technology by implementing information systems and researching computer systems in a hands-on manner.

Experience

Shutterstock (Remote): Senior Information Engineer

2017-Present

- Drove a culture of information sharing and introduced technical documentation processes as Shutterstock's first technical writer.
- Developing documentation for Shutterstock's public API, SDK, CLI, and UI widgets, using a pipeline to merge OpenAPI reference with manually written examples and task-oriented content. Reduced average partner integration time from 3 months to 1.2 months. Partner feedback indicates that documentation is a major factor in getting integrations working quickly.
- Developing and maintaining a modular documentation container that internal teams use to publish documentation. Coding the container, deployment code, and tests using Gatsby, GraphQL, React, asynchronous JavaScript, and other open-source tools. Onboarded documentation for 5 internal services in 2 months.
- Built a diagram of Shutterstock's internal architecture, gathering information from each department and merging it into a format that makes sense across all departments. Departments across the company use this diagram to reduce the time to identify the cause of outages and other urgent situations.
- Documented internal Node.JS microservices to promote innersourcing.

IBM (Durham, NC): Advisory Technical Writer/Team Lead

2004-2017

- Led a seven-person team providing documentation for IBM UrbanCode software and its 70-person development team, including documentation, education, videos, white papers, customer forum response, and support response. Covered a wide range of realistic customer DevOps scenarios, such as blue-green deployments, rolling deployments, dark launches, continuous delivery, and mainframe deployments.
- Researched and wrote custom documents for our largest customers and for critical needs. Contributed directly to sales deals in the millions of dollars.
- Worked with support teams to identify customer needs and to focus efforts on preventing support calls. Reduced average time to documentation error resolution from 8 days to 2 days.

Lohre & Associates Advertising, Cincinnati, OH: Copywriter

2000-2003

- Wrote magazine articles, press releases, client communication, and research reports.

Education

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
M.A. Professional writing

Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH
BA English rhetoric and literature

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Publication samples

Shutterstock API, SDK, and CLI reference

I originally built this API reference documentation with Widdershins and Shins but later wrote a custom Node.JS and Nunjucks program to generate it. It merges handwritten examples and task-based information about using the API with generated examples and endpoint reference from an OpenAPI source file.

Shutterstock developer portal documentation

This documentation covers many of the same topics as the API reference but is aimed at decision-makers and architects. Along with information about using the API, JavaScript SDK, and CLI, I've added a tutorial and information that helps Shutterstock's enterprise clients allow their employees to access Shutterstock through single sign-on.

Tutorial: Using the computer vision features of the Shutterstock API

This tutorial covers using the reverse image search and keyword suggestion features of our computer vision services. It includes end-to-end instructions on setting up a free API account, installing the Shutterstock JavaScript SDK, and writing straightforward Node.JS programs to analyze user-submitted images.

Performance characteristics of IBM UrbanCode Deploy

I planned, wrote, and typeset this white paper based on testing data from our product development teams. I consulted with the performance testers about what the test results meant and with the customer-facing teams that needed to explain the performance of the product to current and potential customers.

Rollback scenarios in IBM UrbanCode Deploy

This video addresses customer confusion that I learned about from support requests. It demonstrates techniques for reversing problems automatically, and it teaches customers about a common misconception about the product at the same time. Our internal support call analysis showed significantly fewer customer issues in this area after I delivered and promoted the video.