Zachary Lytle

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Technical Evangelism Consultant, Lytle Technologies   September 2015 – Present
- Coaching companies on developer evangelism strategies to maximize ROI on event sponsorship, community outreach, and recruiting initiatives.
- Services offered range from public speaking engagements and copywriting to advising projects on market strategies and architecture roadblocks.
- Clients include Amazon, Microsoft, CapitalOne, Intel, Rackspace, Rakuten, and IBM.

Technology Consultant, U.S. House of Representatives   August 2014 – November 2015
- Consulted with the congressional aviation sub-committee to write commercial UAV laws.
- Fostered relationships and discussion between government organizations such as the FAA and NTSB with industry clients including GoogleX, Amazon Prime Air, GoPro, and DJI.
- Lobby efforts succeeded in finding amiable compromise between national security and open entrepreneurship in the UAV industry.

Founder & President, Airhokie   September 2013 – September 2015
- Designed and piloted custom unmanned aviation solutions for small and large clients in the news sports broadcasting, search and rescue, law enforcement, and agriculture industries.
- Developed and licensed fully-automated flight path machine learning system for use with autonomous camera work, security analysis, farming, and physical delivery systems.
- Worked with engineers and manufacturers in China to develop safer and more efficient drone microcontrollers that limit altitude and speed near airports.

DevOps Evangelist, Rackspace   July 2013 – August 2014
- Launched and managed Rackspace's technical event sponsorship initiative including brand recognition, recruiting, and relationships with independent vendors and universities.
- Coordinated efforts and communications between departments across the Texas, California, Virginia, and UK offices including the Rackspace Startup and Developer Outreach programs.
- Curated analytics feedback from students, clients, and industry professionals led to major design and business strategy changes across multiple products, teams, and offices.
- Rackspace named best sponsor at each event the team organized and attended.

Software Developer & QA Engineer, Rackspace   May 2013 – April 2014
- Rebuilt BDD automated testing platform in Ruby using RSpec and Selenium Webdriver, reducing integrated branch deployment test time from one hour to under four minutes.
- Authored and piloted Canon 2.0, a visual overhaul for the Rackspace web applications using LESS, Bower, and Grunt for a consistent UI/UX experience across all team projects.
- Maintained 11-year legacy Email & Apps API and control panel built in ASP .NET and NHibernate while launching new products such as SSO authentication and MS 360 Office.

Undergraduate Instructor, Department of Computer Science   January 2012 – May 2013
- Conducted introductory and intermediate CS lectures, labs, and projects in Java and Python.
- Founded the CS Mentoring program to foster 1-on-1 relationships between incoming students and established upperclassmen.

EDUCATION
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science – Human Computer Interaction
Bachelor of Arts in English – Professional Writing
Minors in Creative Writing, Literature, Philosophy, and Mathematics
  Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 'Virginia Tech', Blacksburg, VA
  Dean's List: Fall 2012, Spring & Fall, 2013

PROJECTS
Software Engineer, Trackpunch   April 2013 – January 2014
  - Built *Trackpunch*, a free music platform with a social discovery experience hosting 500+ users.
  - Constructed server infrastructure for automatic deployment and load balancing.
  - Developing Rest API for user data manipulation using Rails, Nginx, and MongoDB.

CEO, Startup Hokie & BargainBurg   August 2013 – December 2013
  - Developed course syllabus for CS 4704 with one assignment: build a web-service startup.
  - Lead a team of twenty students to build online coupon platform for local businesses.
  - Company revenue reached $30,000 before full acquisition by major university publisher.

Project Manager, Project MELT (Middle English Language Translator)   January 2013 – May 2013
  - Developed natural language processing application in Python and PostgreSQL.
  - Taught a machine to create audio pronunciations based on historic phonetics.
  - Library was eventually licensed through Virginia Tech Knowledge Works for CRC research.

Developer & Community Administrator, WebDiplomacy   January 2010 – January 2012
  - Built and managed online version of Diplomacy, a strategic negotiation game using PHP.
  - User base grows daily with over 80,000 members across all seven continents.
  - Fielded technical feedback from beta users and anti-cheat detection systems and engaged with the community to encourage open-source development.

SERVICE
Program Manager & Sponsor, Micah's Backpack
  - Providing direct weekend food assistance for children from low-income families.

Event Coordinator & Spokesperson, Child's Play Charity
  - Writing promotional content to increase awareness and funding for children's hospitals.

Webmaster, Peninsula SPCA
  - Provided IT and web development services to the Virginia Living Museum and SPCA.
  - Continue to foster ~10 animals a year through the Roanoke branch of the SPCA.

CERTIFICATIONS
Red Hat Certified System Administrator (RHCSA)
Professional Scrum Product Owner (PSPO)
Red-Seal Journeyman Baker-Patissier, Ontario, Canada

MEMBERSHIPS
External Advisory Board, Alliance for System Safety of UAS through Research Excellence (ASSURE)
Entrepreneurial Outreach Committee, Virginia Tech Institute for Creativity, Arts and Technology
Advisory Board, Virginia Center for Autonomous Systems
Board of Directors, Developers Without Borders
Startup Mentor, Virginia Tech Foundation