Nicholas Adam Plante
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Summary

I'm an experienced Ruby programmer and web application developer with a background in network and UNIX administration. Currently, I am a self-employed (freelance) software mercenary, but if you're doing something interesting on the web with Ruby, and looking for developer / entrepreneurs who can think outside of the box, let me know.

I enjoy working with new ideas and emerging technologies, and surrounding myself with smart, dedicated people. Therefore I'm only interested in working with small, agile teams who are as passionate about the things they're building as I am. No politics, no middle managers, no cubicles please.

My current interests include open identity and reputation, micropayments, messaging, mashable utilitarian web services, information visualization, and new techniques for online storytelling and digital media distribution (music, film, comics, etc).

Education

Northeastern University, M.S. in Computer Science, May 2004
- Concentration: Network Systems

University of Maine, B.S. in Computer Science (cum laude), May 2000

Technical Skills Overview

Software Development:	**Ruby**, **Ruby on Rails**, Sinatra; **RSpec**, Test::Unit; JavaScript / Ajax / **JQuery**; Java (J2SE), Flash / ActionScript 2.0/3.0; Web Services (REST++, SOAP--); (X)HTML / CSS
	Agile development methodologies, Object Oriented Design, Test- and **Behavior-Driven Development**, Website / Community design & development, Rich Internet Applications
Databases:	MySQL, PostgreSQL, administration and development, ORM experience in Ruby with ActiveRecord, DataMapper
Development Tools:	Vim; Subversion, Git; Trac, Bugzilla, LightHouse; UML; Capistrano
Operating Systems:	OS X (workstation), FreeBSD, Linux (Debian)
Network Administration:	Network infrastructure, switching, routing, firewalling, load balancing concepts and protocol knowledge. Data center planning, management and build-out experience.
Network Services:	Apache Httpd / Passenger, Nginx, Mongrel, Monit, DNS (BIND), SMTP (Exim), IMAP/POP3 (Dovecot, WU), caching concepts, message queues, streaming media services. Experience deploying and supporting proprietary network systems at early life stages.

Work Experience

Nth Metal Interactive / Ubikorp Internet Services; Portsmouth, NH 03801
Lead Software Developer / Technology Consultant (Freelance) 6/04-Present
- Responsible for planning, developing and deploying numerous web-based applications and services for clients using Ruby, Ruby on Rails, and other Ruby-based web frameworks / technologies
- Development lead for small 1-4 person web application teams using agile development methodologies; experience working closely with clients

- Flash/Flex web tools, widgets, and Rich Internet Application development
- Provided boutique systems administration and hosting services for a number of small businesses and portal sites using FreeBSD and Debian/Ubuntu Linux
- Clients: Razume, PortalVideo, Russound, Sterling Sound, DualStreet, Giant Interactive, Kosa Minore Creative, Verimatrix, Ineri Design (references and project descriptions available on request)

Northeastern University College of Computer and Information Science; Boston, MA 02115
Graduate School Research / Teaching Assistant 9/03-5/04
- Developed Laboratory portion of new graduate-level course CSG254: Practical Network Security
- Designed and deployed course lab environment on a secure network segment
- Created and graded lab assignments, assisted students during office hours, guest lectured on network protection and secure software development topics

Digital Media On Demand (DMOD), Inc.; Boston, MA 02134
Senior Software Service Engineer / Director, Information Assurance 6/01-10/03
- Part of a small team tasked with architecture and development of numerous platforms for the secure distribution of media in the entertainment industry – development work with Java, C++
- Project management of the group responsible for systems integration, quality assurance, and professional services development
- Later, responsible for the company's hosted ASP model, administration and development of JBoss-based web applications running on a mix of FreeBSD and Solaris
- Development of administrative interfaces to hosted services for systems monitoring and customer support functions

MIT Lincoln Laboratory; Information Systems Technology Group, Lexington, MA 02420
Scientist, Assistant Staff 6/00-6/01
- Development of an experimental neural network-based IDS to detect novel Denial of Service and probing activities
- Evaluation and qualitative testing of commercial IDS and Firewall products for future military use. Work involved construction of test beds, configuration of servers, routers, firewalls, and network services to simulate real world attack scenarios
- Primary contact in effort to transfer MIT-LL IDS evaluation methodology to the National Institute of Standards
- Development of NetPoke, an open-source TCPDump data replay engine used in evaluation exercises
- IDS defense and attack technology demonstrations for sponsors

Honors and Additional Information

- Co-author of **Practical Ruby Plugins** – published by Apress, August 2008
- Speaker at **Ruby East 2007**, *Philadelphia* – Rails Rumble and Constraint-Driven Development
- Speaker at **SD2C 2007**, *Beijing* – Ruby, Rails, and REST for Agile Development
- Speaker at **Voices That Matter: Pro Ruby Conference 2008** *Boston* – Developing Rails Plugins
- Speaker at **Railsconf 2009**, *Las Vegas* – Starting Up Fast: Practical Lessons from the Rails Rumble
- Ruby on Rails core contributor, plugin developer & contributor to numerous Ruby OSS projects
- Organizer, frequent speaker at **NH Ruby User Group** meetings
- Co-organizer, founder / developer of the **Rails Rumble** startup competition
- Staff "Guru" Blogger @ **Dr Dobbs Code Talk** (*http://dobbscodetalk.com*)
- Other blog articles available at **blog.zerosum.org** (*http://blog.zerosum.org*)
- Graduate research in *Secure Multicast Group Communication* Over Ad-hoc Wireless Networks
- Experience as a Music Director for college radio WMEB 91.9FM and editor for e-zine Ink19

References

- Available upon request