

ben demeyer

software architect/leader

(810) 923-4622
ben@bendemeyer.com

www.bendemeyer.com
github.com/bendemeyer
stackoverflow.com/users/2166441

I'm a talented software engineer who enjoys solving all sorts of interesting problems, from how to build an event driven data processing pipeline to how to develop a collaborative and productive engineering culture within a team. I am a zealot for maintainable code, which to me means modularity and readability. I am passionate about limiting bus factor by ensuring institutional knowledge is spread throughout multiple members of the team. I believe that a truly collaborative environment, one that sees engineers working together toward a common goal, leads to a culture that is not only productive, but also enjoyable.

WORK EXPERIENCE

ZORO

2015 - Present

Zoro is a sizable eCommerce company that relies heavily on automation. Applications built in-house vary from the main web application (zoro.com) running on the Django framework to the many ETL tools that move the data which drives the business. The primary programming language is Python, though there's plenty of JavaScript in the codebase as well.

After a year of establishing myself as a technical leader, I was promoted to the position of Solutions Architect where I worked with all elements within Zoro's IT department and helped guide the company's technical direction. After about 18 months in that role the CIO created the new director-level position of Chief Architect for me and we established a formal architecture team, offering me more insight and influence on the strategic direction of Zoro as a whole.

Chief Architect Nov. 2017 - Present

- Lead the newly created architecture team, a small group of engineers whose mission is to ensure that Zoro doesn't sacrifice long-term viability in the name of short-term gains.
- Worked closely with the CIO to develop a plan for rapidly growing the engineering team.
- Informally took on leadership of the engineering team when the Director of Software Engineering position was vacant for 4 months.
- Provided technical guidance for the business's highest priority initiatives.
- Continued to provide oversight and guidance to all of Zoro's ongoing technical projects.

Solutions Architect

June 2016 - Nov. 2017

- Developed an architectural roadmap to plan the future of Zoro's technology.
- Lead the effort to implement Elasticsearch as Zoro's primary source of product data, replacing an old, poorly schema-ed MySQL DB.
- Built a package of modules intended to make sharing code across projects easier, as well as abstract away some lower level details behind an easy to use API.
- Created a circuit breaker module that had an immediate performance impact and saved applications from serious downtime if one component service failed.
- Oversaw the creation of an event driven product data pipeline using RabbitMQ.
- Worked with newer developers to help them learn how to create maintainable code.

Sr. Software Developer

June 2015 - June 2016

- Created complex custom functionality in challenging, restrictive NetSuite framework to integrate DHL as a shipping provider.
- Contributed expertise based on personal experience to team development process.
- Lead architectural discussions with team to design solutions before we began to build them.
- Met with business leaders to determine how my team could best provide the solutions they need.
- Worked with a variety of 3rd party providers to integrate their services with our application.

BARRACUDA NETWORKS

2014 - 2015

Barracuda Networks is a technology company offering a variety of products, including an automated backup appliance, the Barracuda Backup Server. I worked on the team developing software for this appliance, written in PHP, and including a web application built on a custom MVC framework with a custom jQuery frontend for administering the server.

Software Engineer

June 2014 - June 2015

- Wrote an integration with the Microsoft Office365 API for dynamic browsing and backup of files from Microsoft OneDrive and emails on Exchange365.
- Enhanced CSRF protections and error handling throughout the application.
- Optimized database calls to quickly gather metadata on full file-system backups.
- Built jQuery plugin for drag-and-drop sorting of elements on the client-side, and corresponding Ajax endpoints server-side for saving sorting preferences.

AYDUS CONSULTING

2013 - 2014

Aydus Consulting is a small consulting firm specializing in creating eCommerce websites, primarily in Magento and sometimes ASP.NET StoreFront. At Aydus I worked mostly on front-end JavaScript, creating a variety of custom jQuery widgets and plugins. I was also able to do some server-side work in both PHP and C# on several projects.

Web Developer

Sep. 2013 - June 2014

- Spearheaded massive customization of large scale Magento sites featuring responsive design.
- Built complete and portable extensions for Magento using PHP and XML.
- Wrote custom jQuery extensions to reuse development work on other projects.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

2011 - 2013

Washington University is a highly-acclaimed university which, at the time of my employment, used Microsoft SharePoint as the backing technology for nearly all its public facing websites. My work spanned from custom jQuery image sliders on the client-side to SharePoint extensions and console apps in C# on the server-side.

Programmer/ Analyst III

Aug. 2012 - Sep. 2013

- Created a suite of custom "ribbon actions" for SharePoint, providing content maintainers throughout the university with greater capability.
- Built console apps in C# for migrating data between field types in SharePoint documents.
- Assumed a leadership role, mentoring other developers as well as project managers.

Programmer/ Analyst II

Dec. 2011 - Aug. 2012

- Implemented complex responsive designs for SharePoint publishing sites.
- Lead the migration of existing sites from SharePoint 2007 to SharePoint 2010.
- Worked directly with other university departments to roadmap the future of their projects.

BROCK & BIERK

2011 - 2013

Brock & Bierk was a very small web development consultancy which created eCommerce and basic content sites for clients. I was the lead for all custom development beyond the out-of-the-box functionality of the frameworks used.

Lead Web Developer

Oct. 2011 - Sept. 2013

- Lead custom development on a series of sites based CMSs like WordPress and Joomla.
- Customized a JavaScript library for creating interactive maps.
- Built integration of VitalSource API with Magento's one page checkout.

CBS RADIO ST. LOUIS

2010 - 2011

CBS Radio runs a cluster of 3 stations in St. Louis, each of which operated its own WordPress.com based website. I performed day-to-day administrative tasks for these sites as well as any custom development that was available.

Assistant Web Administrator

June 2010 - Dec. 2011

- Built a page to track mid-term election results, using iframes to pull up-to-the-minute information into the otherwise locked-down WordPress.com environment.
- Built custom PHP sites to promote major events, like Y98's Mega Wedding and KEZK's Light the Town Pink, and framed them into the WordPress.com sites to continue driving ad revenue.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

The Best of St. Louis

Partner, Developer
Summer 2010

In the summer of 2010 two friends and I began a small local website, thebestofstlouis.com. I was the primary developer of the site, built on WordPress.org, and I extensively customized its theme and functionality. We chose to shut the site down after three months due to a trademark dispute, but in this short span the site generated a profit from Google AdSense and recorded thousands of votes in its weekly polls.

SKILLS

Server-Side: Python • PHP • C# • Unicorn • Nginx • Apache • NodeJS • SSL/TLS

Client-Side: JavaScript • jQuery • Ajax • HTML & CSS • LESS & SASS

Data Stores: Elasticsearch • Redis • RedShift • BigQuery • Cassandra • MySQL • PostgreSQL

Data Processing: RabbitMQ • Logstash • Kibana • REST services • SOAP • JSON • XML

SaaS: Amazon AWS • Google Cloud Platform • NetSuite

Frameworks: Django • Flask • Pyramids • ASP.NET • Magento • WordPress • Joomla

EDUCATION

Bachelors Degree

Dec. 2009

I attended and graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Political Science with a minor in Journalism.