ben demeyer

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I'm a talented software engineer who enjoys solving all sorts of interesting problems, from building an event driven data processing pipeline to developing a collaborative and productive engineering culture within a team. I am a zealot for maintainable code, which to me means modularity, readability and testability. 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

PATIENTPOP
2018 - Present

PatientPop is a SaaS company offering a practice management platform primarily targeted at small-to-medium sized medical practices. The platform was originally built as a PHP Laravel monolith, and various projects to pull functionality out of that monolith and into new independent services are underway.

I work on the EMR integrations project, where our focus is on building and maintaining support for as many 3rd party medical records systems as possible within our application. While some work is still done in the legacy monolith code, the majority of our work is centered on our new microservice platform. The new platform is built in the AWS serverless framework, using lambdas and Fargate ECS tasks to run Node.js code.

Principal Software Engineer

Apr. 2018 - Present

- Helped lauch a new EMR integrations platform, the first step in a major project aiming to refactor the legacy monolith application into a microservice architecture.
- Designed the interface between the core platform and each 3rd-party specific API module.
- Lead the effort to build the first complete and pluggable API module for the platform.
- Refactored a major shared service written in Node, removing difficult to follow callback chains by making extensive use of async/await syntax.
- Implemented a previously missing defensive check when detecting appointment cancellations to prevent the platform from falsely notifying patients that their appointment was canceled.
- Revamped engineering interview process to facilitate accelerated team growth.

ZORO
2015 - 2018

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.

Chief Architect
Nov. 2017 - Apr. 2018

- Lead the newly created architecture team, a small group of engineers whose mission was to ensure that Zoro didn'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 as a whole team while the Director of Software Engineering position was vacant for 4 months.
- Provided technical guidance for the business's highest priority initiatives.

Software 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.
- 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.
- Designed an implementation of the circuit breaker pattern for use throughout the codebase.
- 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.
- 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

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

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.

SKILLS

Server-Side: Python • PHP • Node.js • C# • Gunicorn • Nginx • Apache • 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

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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.