

Benjamin D. Lake

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Objective

To be a part of a development team whose goals are the creation of quality network-enabled applications that streamline business processes and create additional value for today's marketplace.

I enjoy interfacing directly with business analysts in order to understand customer needs and work to design software systems that meet those needs. Bearing in mind technological or process rationale to meet some needs more aggressively than others. I have a knack for communicating with business users and technical users (developers) alike. I bridge the gap that often exists between development departments and the business case.

Work Experience

Speed FC, Inc. - Software Application Architect (speedfc.com)

February 2007 - February 2011

Lead architect of teams whose responsibility it is to develop e-commerce, order management, fulfillment, and call center applications which provided an end-to-end systems experience for Speed FC's clients.

My time started as a senior developer responsible for hands-on development of platform architecture and porting of legacy code bases into a new platform with updated thinking. Both in terms of learning from the past, and the application of current industry advances.

Approximately two years into employment I was promoted as the direct manager of eight senior developers and ten junior developers. I was responsible for the daily development operations as well as architectural guidance. It became apparent the architectural guidance portion of my responsibilities required more focused attention and availability. Therefore my responsibility shifted solely to architectural guidance and future planning. I held that role until my departure.

Responsibilities included:

- Development and maintenance of core functionality for internal e-commerce platform which is run on the following sites:
 - The Limited
 - Shop Justice (previously LimitedToo.com)
 - ShopKo
 - Dress Barn
- Experience scaling e-commerce sites to tens of thousands of *sessions* per day
- Maintenance and development of the following additional systems:
 - Order management and associated reporting
 - Call Center order handling
 - Fulfillment systems integration (Manhattan's PKMS)
 - Designed and built a "RF picking" solution (wireless handheld device client and accompanying server for workflow management and performance reporting)
- Personally developed a PCI level 1 compliant payment handling system handling tens of millions of dollars a year (I later transitioned the maintenance and further development to a fellow developer)
- Integration with credit card processors, banks, and gift card merchants:
 - 5/3 Bank
 - Retail Decisions (fraud and payment)
 - Stored Value Solutions
 - PayPal (express and pro)

- Authorize.net
- Alliance Data Systems
- Management of development personnel in daily activities and knowledge growth
- Establishing long terms goals and aligning project to those goals as much as possible
- Began establishing workflow to include unit testing and continuous integration

Wieck Media - Web Application Developer (wieck.com)

June 2005 - February 2007

Part of a small development team providing new development and support for digital newsrooms and supporting applications.

- Led the transition from legacy systems to more open and standards oriented technologies.
- Championed the development of an application framework for consistent, quality driven web-applications.
- Began instituting software development best practices in regards to documentation and source code version control.
- Primarily responsible for the following work:
 - PHP image processing daemon
 - HTML email distribution and click-through tracking
 - Toyota Pressroom (*no longer my work*)
 - Autodeadline.com.au
 - Australian Customs Video Database
 - Bikedeadline.com.au
 - Williams F1 Photography
- Configured and maintained deployment servers (MAMP)
- Implemented build system from Subversion repository and CLI based application maintenance/upgrade interface

Archose Systems, LLC - Founder/CEO (archose.com/portfolio)

July 2002 - Present

Complete management of business processes, finances, and development. Archose Systems provides web-based application development, computer sales, and network installations to small business.

Currently the focus is on web site development and hosting.

Nortel Networks - Documentation Assistant

March 2000 - December 2000

Responsible for creation of documentation graphics and format conversion. Additional work includes project web page development and maintenance.

Education

May 2006 Southern Methodist University
BBA Information Technology and Operations Management
GPA 3.4

May 2006 Southern Methodist University
BA Computer Science
GPA 3.5

Skills

(Beginner) 1 - 10 (Expert) [-] Past Experience, not current working knowledge

Languages

- [9] PHP 4/5
- [3] PHP-GTK
- [2] Python
- [5] Java
- [4] JavaScript (also: JQuery, YUI)
- [1] C/C++/Objective-C

Standards

- [5] XML/XSLT
- [6] SOAP
- [4] XML-RPC
- [2] REST
- [7] X/HTML
- [7] CSS 1-3

Development Tools

- [8] Trac
- [8] Subversion
- [3] Git
- [3] CVS
- [7] PHP Libraries PEAR/PECL/Zend
- [6] PHP DB abstraction (ADODB, PDO)
- [6] PHP Propel
- [1] PHP Doctrine

Project Management

- vTiger (OSS fork of Sugar CRM)
- Sugar CRM
- Trac
- Closely lead team of six (6) senior developers
- Had oversight of ~20 junior developers

Deployment Software

- [7] Apache
- [5] MySQL
- [6] PostgreSQL
- [6] Monit
- [6] Cacti
- [4] SNMP
- [4] Bind (DNS)

Frameworks

- [5] Code Ignitor 1.6/2
- [7] Symfony 1.0-1.4

Web Application Architecture

- N-tier design
- Horizontal scaling

- Load balancing
- OWASP best practices
- PCI Compliance

- [5] Network Architecture
 - Routing
 - VPNs
 - Bridging
 - Packet size manipulation

- [6] Server Operations
 - RAID
 - SNMP
 - Virtualization (VMWare ESXI, VirtualBox, UEC)
 - iSCSI

- Operating Systems
 - [7] Apple OSX Panther+
 - [-] Apple OSX Panther Server
 - [7] Ubuntu 6.06+ Server
 - [-] FreeBSD 5.x
 - [-] Gentoo 2005.1
 - [8] Windows 98/2000/XP

Odds and Ends

Server administration is a hobby of mine. I actively maintain two 1U systems in a Dallas colocation facility, and regularly pop breakers in my house with my server rack. For those lucky enough to be viewing my resume online, here is a network diagram of my home.

I have aspirations to be a package maintainer for Ubuntu, most likely things in the universe.

I work on PHP-GTK projects on the side. Trying to become more involved in getting PHP-GTK more widely available. See package maintainer above.

I am trying to get traction on a project so I can become comfortable with Python. Part of me knows that my GTK desires would be better served here.

I contribute to discussions and occasionally patches to various OSS projects I encounter. Oddly though, as my colleagues would likely agree, I hesitate greatly in these discussions and especially when posting patches. I am not quick to judge others work nor make assumptions so it takes a certain comfort level before I "trouble" other developers with my contribution as I want to make sure it is done in the spirit of their development and not mine.

This same hesitation extends to my own side projects. I am weary of posting code I don't deem "complete". However, I am fully aware that as software developers we redefine the word every step of the way and eventually I'll just need to get over it :) When it comes to professional work, I am MUCH better at trimming the fat and striking a balance between developer wishes and business needs. There the lines are much clearer.