Goto Stack

PostgreSQL
ArangoDB
Tarantool
Couchdb

Electron
Sinatra
RSpec
Kemal
Vuejs
Rails

Lua
SQL
VimL
Ruby
Node
Crystal
Asciidoc
JavaScript

Connect

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github/**lodestone**
twitter/**lodestone**
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Who is this guy?

Ostentatious Answer:

Pragmatic technologist delivering exceptional experiences and robust solutions to difficult technical problems with an innate creativity, keen curiosity in the wonders around, and the insights gained from twenty+ years of diverse experiences. Also makes delicious full-stack pancakes.

Plain Answer:

I am a nerd, a geek, and a builder. Specifically, I'm a **senior-level+ software engineer** with **15 years of experience** in software development and over 20 years in the tech industry. I am **creative, practical, affable**, and love solving hard problems. With every key I press, the perspective of **the end-user is foremost in my mind**. My eclectic background, especially my background in art, is put to good use in delivering on that focus. And I actually do make good pancakes.

Adventures

Scrap Heap

After a circuitious journey through Linux system administration and a manufacturer of gigantic class-A motor homes, **I discovered Ruby in 2005**. Despite the fact that the 1.0 version of Rails had yet to be released, I chose Rails to build a scrapbooking app for a SaaS venture my wife and I launched called ScrapEase. In the dark times before jQuery, handling cross-browser issues was a nightmare, but nevertheless, ScrapEase had an intuitive drag-and-drop UI using only native web technologies. ScrapEase ultimately went nowhere as a venture, but over the course of its development I realized how much I missed coding. Despite having focused heavily on software development in college, my first few years in the industry weren't spent programming. So, as the opportunities for Ruby on Rails skyrocketed, I was eager to get back to what I loved. In January 2006 I made the leap to working full-time with Ruby. And as I have heard from many rubyists, "I came for Rails, but stayed for Ruby".

The Agile Deep-End *[Ruby on Rails, jQuery]*

After ScrapEase, I took on remote contract work until a recruiter pitched me a local job in Irvine. I had my reservations, especially with the long commute, but that job was a turning point in my career as a software developer. Having never been exposed to extreme programming or **agile methodologies** before, I was thrown into the deep end. My time there was like an agile boot-camp. Daily stand-ups, test-driven development, weekly sprints, story pointing, and pair-programming **quickly became second-nature**.
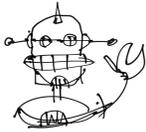
Continuing Adventures...

The Mythical Unicorn Designer-Developer *[Ruby on Rails, jQuery]*

As it turned out, building a failed SaaS web app hadn't been a total waste of time. I had inadvertently built a portfolio piece that would secure work over the next several years. In fact, when I first spoke with Steve at Less Everything, he did NOT believe that I did everything in the app – design, graphics, code – completely by myself. He told me, *"The designer-developer is a unicorn. It doesn't exist. If you really did all the design, then you must be a *BLEEPY* developer."* But, I was living proof that **unicorns DO exist!** An important client of theirs, a stock-photo company, had big deadlines looming and a lot of dollars were at stake. I built the interface (front-end and API endpoints) to approve or reject incoming photos and allow editors to give feedback on the photographers' submissions. With the tremendous volume of photos needing editor approval before going live, the interface needed to be speedy and completely functional via keyboard only. We hit our deadlines and afterward, I continued with the Less team for a time before venturing back out on my own.

Greenfield Architect *[RoR, Text Parsing (CSV & custom), JS Visualization and Charting]*

One of the largest insurance brokers in California approached me to collaborate with their designer to build an application providing easily digestible, high level, visual insight into organizational metrics for company leadership. The app also allowed goal setting and performance tracking for individual agents. As a greenfield project for a large client, I enjoyed the responsibility of taking on decisions and tasks that are often divided into specialized roles. Looking back, it was serendipitous that I had autonomy in **architecting the application**, as it was a formative experience that continues to drive my career path today.

Super-Secret Whale *[RoR, internal and external APIs, VueJS, Accessibility]*

As the landscape of the field matured and the previous norm of contract work increasingly gave way to more full time roles for Rubyists, I started looking for the right team. I joined Roostify (online mortgage app) and worked on the team tasked with designing and shipping an **API integration** with JPMorgan Chase. Because the partnership hadn't been pubicly announced, everyone referred to Chase by the codename "Whale" due to their size and importance. I also spent time as part of the front-end team migrating the UI to **VueJS**. Increasing regulations in the mortgage industry required Roostify to meet web accessibility guidelines, so the front-end team spent many careful hours ensuring every bit of the app was meeting the standards of **Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)** and the **Web Accessibility Initiative – Accessible Rich Internet Applications (WAI-ARIA).** My versatility and ability to bring the big picture into focus continue to be valuable assets in delivering high quality software.

Education

Bachelor of Arts in Art	Columbia College 2000
Bachelor of Science in Information Systems	Columbia College 2002