

Nicholas Zalabak

5820 Oakwood Dr. 4A Lisle, IL 60532 (630)-544-0481
email: techwhizbang@gmail.com web: <http://www.techwhizbang.com>

Profile

I am a talented developer who believes in building high-caliber software through collaboration and sound development practices. I understand the importance of time to market, quality, and scalability. I excel at cutting through red tape with transparency, pulling no punches, and never compromising the values of craftsmanship. I am a contributor to the open-source community with a number of libraries, plug-ins, and gems that can be retrieved from my source code repository. I am a self-starter, a leader, and an entrepreneur by nature.

Tools of the Trade

Ruby, Java, J2EE, JRuby, XML, Perl, C, SQL, JavaScript, Ajax, MySQL, Oracle, SQLite
Ruby on Rails, Rspec, JUnit, Spring, Struts/Struts 2, Alfresco, Solr, Lucene, Hibernate, TopLink, Subversion, GIT, StarTeam, CVS, CruiseControl, Maven, Hudson, Maven, Ant, AWS/S3, ffMPEG, JBoss, Tomcat, Jetty, Oracle Application Server, Websphere, Apache, Mongrel, Nginx, Linux, Solaris Unix, Mac OS X, Windows

Work Experience

Sears Holdings, *October '08 - Present*

Lead Senior Software Engineer

Currently working in an Agile based environment where core practices include pair programming, test-driven development, continuous integration, small release cycles, and collective code ownership.

Improved the overall build time by 66% through removal of unnecessary Maven tasks and dependencies, removing bottlenecks, and upgrading our build server software and hardware.

Upgraded our Rails stack and Jruby versions that resulted in higher request throughput because of the advancement of multithreading support.

Developed an extensible solution for faceted search using Lucene and exposed it through an API that was leveraged by JRuby so it could be used within our Ruby on Rails stack.

Created a page templating framework with Alfresco web services that enabled content producers to easily create content pages on the fly based on search terms relevancy.

Integrated with the Twitter API, Google Reader, and several multimedia vendors.

UrbanMelt.com, *January '07 – December '08*

Co-Founder and Architect

Co-founded an independently funded Internet startup that enabled local businesses to improve their search engine rankings and leverage online marketing tools to engage their customer base.

I architected and developed the site using J2EE technologies and then opted to re-write the site using a pure Ruby on Rails stack. This decision improved feature development and velocity over 10 fold.

Due to the lack of investment and the economic downturn I was unable to sustain the site.

Tribune Interactive, *September '06– October '08*
Software Developer

Developed a REST based web service using Rails to provide 3rd party clients a secure authentication based XML service with strict adherence to test driven design.

Worked on the re-architecture of Metromix.com by converting it from J2EE to a Ruby on Rails based product using Agile principles and methodologies.

Developed features to enhance the newspaper J2EE CMS system for user generated media including several third party video system integrations.

Worked on a number of project teams that included development of custom J2EE backend and middle-tier components that fed content and powered all of the newspaper, television, and radio station sites that the Tribune Company owns.

Acquity Group LLC, *February '06– September '06*
Technical Consultant

Used the Blue Martini e-Commerce framework to implement features on several high profile online retailers.

Accenture, *August '05 – February '06*
Senior Programmer

Responsible for the high level and detail designs for one of the world's largest telecom companies online service ordering tool for businesses while overseeing an offshore development team.

United Parcel Service, *July '98 to August '05*
Engineering Specialist

Worked on internal projects for the plant-engineering department that included J2EE application development and database reporting mechanisms to aid in time/resource management and facility part ordering/allocation

Education

University of Illinois at Chicago
Bachelor of Computer Science and Mathematics

Affiliations

Depaul University Guest lecturer for Ruby on Rails classes