

Nicholas Zalabak

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Profile

I believe in building high-caliber software through collaboration and sound development practices. I understand the importance of time to market, quality, and scalability. I regard the open exchange of vision, ideas, and opinions to be the cornerstones of an excellent team. I am a contributor to the open-source community with a number of libraries that can be retrieved from my GitHub account or through my website. I consider myself a self-starter who is very driven and entrepreneurial by nature.

Tools of the Trade

Ruby, JRuby, Java, JEE, Scala, JavaScript, C, SQL, MySQL, Oracle, MongoDB, Rails, Cucumber, RSpec, JUnit, Spring, Solr, Lucene, Hibernate, Git, Subversion, Perforce, Maven, Team City, Jenkins, Hudson, Maven, Ant, AWS/S3, Chef, Puppet, ffmpeg, JBoss, Tomcat, Jetty, Oracle Application Server, Websphere, Apache, Nginx, Linux, Solaris Unix, Mac OS X

Work Experience

CafePress, *February '10 – Present*

Senior Software Engineer

Rewrote portions of the site to be backed by Java based REST services and fronted by Rails.

Automated our server bootstrapping and deployments using Chef.

Introduced usage of Scala within our Java software stack.

Modernized functional testing with the latest versions Cucumber and Selenium 2.

Evaluated, prototyped, and proved noSQL storage implementations.

Sears Holdings, *October '08 – January '10*

Senior Software Engineer

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

Upgraded the Rails and JRuby versions resulting in higher request throughput because of the advancement of multithreading support.

Developed a faceted search using Lucene.

Integrated with Twitter and Google APIs.

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

Co-Founder and Architect

Co-founder of an independently funded startup that enabled local businesses to improve their search engine

rankings and leverage online marketing tools to engage their customer base.

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 an authentication based REST web service using Rails

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 user generated content and video features to enhance the newspaper CMS system.

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

Presenter at Silicon Valley Ruby Meetup

Depaul University Guest lecturer for Ruby on Rails classes