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Personal Statement

I love learning and experimentation. I draw on a background that includes philosophy, business, classics, code, and eleven years of industry experience. I seek to apply this background in a startup environment where I can work with the newest technologies (Rails, NodeJS).

Work Experience

Cisco Systems : Senior I.T. Engineer: Integrated Workforce Experience

2009-07–Present

- Created standard development kit for Java developers using a Java Container / JSR-168 / JSR-286 (Portlet) stack. Standardized deployment and installation of the stack to three OS platforms using Ant. Reduced developer time to first code contribution from 4–8 business days to 30 minutes thanks to automation, documentation, and video. Estimated cost savings was 250,000USD
- Evangelized standardized SDK (see above) and have on-boarded over 100 developers to date. Provided estimated savings nearing 750,000USD
- Ran bi-monthly technology session and moderated the developer peer support forum
- Maintained CI environment (Hudson), artifact repository (Maven), and SCM branches (Subversion)
- Was loaned to Cisco Quad product business unit to migrate builds from a single, monolithic, Ant-run build to Maven while having no impact on development timelines
- Delivered the first release of the Cisco Quad-powered social collaboration solution (Integrated Workforce Experience) to 90,000+ person organization. This is the first and largest reference implementation of the Cisco Quad product as a platform. Wrote automation to permit operations track to deploy, roll-back and re-install at scale (68 VMs). Wrote hot-fix tooling to allow for deployment of patches, updates, and configuration changes as part of a stability tiger team
- Completed Scrum Master training and lead the largest scrum track within the program. Delivered two major releases of the Integrated Workforce Experience powered by Cisco Quad solution. Led team in delivery of 4 new applications, 2 major rewrites, 500+ feature requests, user stories, and bug fixes
- Continued SDK standardization and tooling activities across multiple platforms with a focus on accelerating developer time to market. Further details under NDA

Cisco Systems : Senior I.T. Engineer: Mail and Messaging Platform

2005-04–2009-07

- Authored 5–point, 2–year legacy systems migration strategy to move all backbone mail services to a standardized, turnkey environment. Implementation completed 2008
- Led technical team responsible forum and blogging framework deployment
- Created business requirements document and RESTful API specification for new generic list-abstraction repository and interface: allows disparate downstream systems (including mail) to access and utilize the same list structures for mail, calendar, voice mail, meeting invite, etc. Implemented 2009-05

- Created standard specification for all applications environments with respect to standard, accepted mail routing behavior: policy document, Sendmail.mc for Solaris, Linux
- Created registry process and web tool for application host systems that use e-mail as transport layer. This should help identify / remediate non-compliant systems that are using our data through unsupported interfaces so that we can help them come into compliance
- Wrote script to deploy core mailing list host data repository, web interface, mail interface, and build scripts from M4 macro definitions + Bash + Perl. This allows an entire environment to be built and deployed into a segregated space by configuring a single macro specification file
- Collaborated with University of Texas Information, Risk, and Operations Management Management Information Systems steering committee to specify next generation of skill-set foci
- Through efforts in the previous 6 years, reduced head-count to 1 full time employee and a vendor team. Realized net savings in excess of 320,000USD

Cisco Systems : Systems Administrator / I.T. Developer: I.T. Engineer

2001-04-2005-04

- Member of 5-person team charged with backbone mail systems upon which 1bn/month mail flow. Build anti-spam, anti-malware solution
- Managed fleet of 10 HP servers, a dozen Mirapoint appliances
- Designed Out of Office scanner / handler to prevent MS Exchange from feeding spam engines / spamming external mailing lists / causing infinite mail storm loops due to its “everyone gets a bounce” design
- Established messaging team standard Perl module set / CVS repository / Subversion repository
- Built common framework for Sendmail-based processing, filtration, and re-routing. Built 3 special-use appliances using single polymorphic code base (Google Code **CMailguard** Project)
- Built software solutions for turnkey rebuild of core infrastructure components to increase resiliency in event of attrition or disaster. Build entire deploy suite in M4 which allowed customization to disaster environment by changing fewer than 10 values
- Migrated primary web interface for list data repository from non-validating HTML 4 Frameset specification to XHTML-compliant, CSS-based, Template::Toolkit design. User interface performed six times faster

Cisco Systems : I.T. Analyst: Engineering Support Analyst

2000-06-2001-04

- Tracked top 5 issues quarter to quarter. After 3 quarters of implementation, support calls dropped, on average, 100 cases per quarter
- Moved client satisfaction rating from 74 to 95 percent, the highest seen to that date
- Developed lead + application owner support relationship still in use today. After performing liaison role, messaging team requested my transition to their team
- Designed web-based Web-vacation mail tool. Tool reduced support calls from 500 per quarter to 25. Net savings of 30,000 USD estimated savings per annum realized

Code Samples

For latest activity, consult: <http://github.com/sgharms>

VerbaLatina

Category: Linguistics **Language:** Ruby **Audience:** Linguists and Latin Students

Homepage: <https://github.com/sgharms/verbalatina/tree/master>

A Rails application that wraps a library set that programmatically conjugates regular Latin Verbs from 4 principal parts into all verbal parts, moods, persons, etc.

Linguistics Package

Category: Linguistics **Language:** Ruby **Audience:** Linguists and Latin Students

Homepage: <http://github.com/bruce/linguistics/tree/master>

Linguistics is a framework for building linguistic utilities for Ruby objects in any language. It includes a generic language-independent front end, a module for mapping language codes into language names, and a module which contains various English-language utilities.

CMailguard

Category: Sysadmin **Language:** Perl **Audience:** Mail systems administrators

Homepage: <http://code.google.com/p/cmailguard/>

For mail architectures that are highly distributed, consolidating mails and running eligibility-to-send to certain addresses is difficult and problematic. Mailguard is designed such that addresses can be routed to a central server. Upon reaching the server, the data is sent via STDOUT into the mailguard application. The application then classifies the sender and based on configuration parameters decides whether the mail should be silently discarded, forwarded on, or put into a holding pen until the message can be validated by a moderator.

M4Resume

Category: Productivity **Language:** M4 **Audience:** Geeky job-seekers

Homepage: <https://github.com/sgharms/m4resume/tree>

Tool for writing résumés in M4, and then having it flexibly build them into a variety of formats: L^AT_EX, XHTML, and XHTML+RDFa.

latintools

Category: Linguistics **Language:** Ruby **Audience:** Classicists

Homepage: <https://github.com/sgharms/latintools/tree/master>

Tools for entering L^AT_EX; useful for Latin writing quickly through Textmate; also has code for converting L^AT_EX-glyphs at CLI to HTML or UTF-8 codes.

Education

University of Texas at Austin : *Management Information Systems*

1995-2000 Bachelor of Business Administration

A multi-disciplinary approach that blends a base in business administration with a focus in building enterprise IT systems. Attention is paid to programming basics, project management, and consulting. The program culminates with a real-world project delivered to an Austin community organization.

University of Texas at Austin : *Philosophy*

1995-2000 Bachelor of Arts

A classic liberal arts program in philosophy with focus on pre-Socratic Greek philosophy, German Idealism (Hegel), and Philosophy of science.

Rijksuniversiteit te Leiden, Leiden, The Netherlands : *Dutch*

1997-1998

During a one-year study abroad term I studied advanced classes in Dutch speaking, writing, grammar, and composition. I also took 3 classes in the faculty of Philosophy: Rise of Scientific Europe, Seminar on Scientific Revolutions, and Rationality of Emotions.

Courses

Beginning Cocoa Bootcamp : 2005-02

http://bignerdranch.com/classes/beginning_cocoa.shtml

Intensive 5-day training course covering the basics of Cocoa / Objective-C programming on Mac OSX.

Ruby on Rails Bootcamp : 2006-02

http://bignerdranch.com/classes/beginning_ruby_on_rails.shtml

Intensive 5-day training course covering the basics of Ruby on Rails development.

Red Hat Certified Engineer Bootcamp : 2003-05

http://bignerdranch.com/classes/beginning_ruby_on_rails.shtml

Intensive 5-day training course covering Linux administration.

Speaking Engagements

Lone Star Ruby Conf V:

“Modeling Thought: Practical Metaprogramming” (August 12, 2011)

From the Abstract: I have completed a second major release of a library that fully conjugates Classical Latin verbs in each of their 133 forms \times 5 standard paradigms. Owing to the irregularity of human communication, modeling the provision of unambiguous answers (return values) to ambiguously asked things (flexible / incomplete method calls) might have required hundreds, if not thousands, of method definitions or static values entered in a database. But what if heuristics could be given to a Ruby class such that it “thought” as language learners are taught to think? What if it could be taught to be flexible in respecting the ambiguous calls given and to still give precise, correct answers back - as human language learners are capable of doing? By adopting this design paradigm, code could become leaner and more reflective of human cognitive process. Thankfully for Rubyists, this is not a dream, this is reality. Our programs can operate more intelligently, more heuristically, and more insightfully. We can save ourselves days of development time by integrating the next tier of metaprogramming patterns I seek to demonstrate. This is perhaps what makes Ruby so unique, so mysterious, so enticing and so special.

RailsBridge: Rails Outreach for Women (September 10, 2011)

Session: Ruby for Novices A session designed to increase the diversity of the Ruby community by introducing the Ruby community, Rails, and the ecosystem of supporting technologies (RVM, git, et al.) in a friendly, learning-oriented environment.

Rubyconf XI: “Modeling Thought: Practical Metaprogramming” New Orleans (September 30, 2011)

“Modeling Thought” as per above, delivered to international audience

Skills

I speak Dutch near-fluently, have a great grasp of classical Latin (I will recite the opening to the *Aeneid*, in meter, if asked), and can get directions to the Metro in French.

Technical Skills Statement

I am extremely proficient with the current Ruby and Rails “ecosystem”: gem, bundler, Rails (3.0), Ruby, Ruby’s metaprogrammatic model, rvm, MiniTest, Test::Unit, and, to a lesser degree, RSpec and Cucumber.

I have solid grounding in modern web front-end creation and have done an extensive study of semantic web technologies (RDF, RDFa) and am familiar with entwining (X)HTML + CSS + RDF. I have moderate familiarity with front-end Javascript.

I have a background in systems administration (RHCE, Linux, Solaris). This work duty necessitated the mastery of Perl and high proficiency with bash scripting. Further, since my systems are mail systems I am proficient in the M4 macro language and sendmail.cf manufacture. I have also done build engineering which permitted a cursory exploration of the Java stack and build tooling (maven, ant) in a J2EE container context (Tomcat).

I am familiar with the git and svn SCM systems. I am a vim user, but also used emacs for a while and even wrote some eLisp functions. I have had light levels of exposure to MySQL, PHP, and Postgres.

My next learning target is the Javascript renaissance: NodeJS, backbone.js, knockout.js and noSQL (MongoDB and Redis).