

Chris Vincent

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Objective

I am a self-motivated autodidactic engineer with over 9 years of experience writing software in a variety of development environments, including 6 years of independent contracting and 3 years of corporate experience. I have seen and worked with massive database schemas for even more massive data loads and web APIs handling volume in the millions of requests per day. I write code because I consider it to be an art form, taking great pride in elegant yet efficient solutions. I am seeking a contractual position within an organizational culture that fosters innovation, with opportunities to grow through applying my skills to interesting and challenging problem domains.

Experience

Involver

Mar '10 - Present
<http://www.involver.com/>

Built out the company's analytics infrastructure utilizing the NoSQL document-oriented database MongoDB, following the OLAP data warehousing pattern for multi-dimensional summarization and analysis. This enables real-time reporting of metrics aggregated from multiple sources, such as application user activity and data collected from external APIs. The metrics include user behavior for internal use and product iteration, and content performance metrics for client use and for demonstration of ROI by the sales and marketing teams.

Also built out the API for the Facebook Stories application in celebration of Facebook's 500 million user milestone. The EventMachine-powered service handled over 1,500 requests per second at high concurrency, with just two large EC2 instances behind a load balancer on the back-end.

Serious Business

Jun '09 - Feb '10
<http://www.seriousbusiness.com/>

Built out and maintained the company's internal metrics and analytics infrastructure, which automates the capturing and summarization of data pertaining to the company's highly popular social games. Was responsible for both back-end architecture, front-end UI, and ad-hoc reports. Metrics included measuring the effectiveness of viral messages with regard to viral growth and user engagement, tracking of user retention, split-testing of new features, demographics, and multidimensional analysis conducted along these lines. Redundancy, failover, and test-driven development were employed to ensure the reliability of a system which is depended upon by each of the company's products. My hybrid approach included both specific modeling of the domain and OLAP data warehousing and reporting. The business intelligence gathered by the metrics infrastructure was used in optimization of game features, messaging, and marketing for acquisition, engagement, and retention of users.

Experience (cont'd)

Context Optional

Mar '08 - Jun '09

<http://www.contextoptional.com/>

Designed, developed, and deployed high-volume Facebook and MySpace applications written in Ruby on Rails for many high-profile clients such as Microsoft, the NCAA, the Los Angeles Times, and ABSOLUT. This included back-end design and development, as well as cross-browser front-end design and interactivity using CSS and JavaScript including Ajax-powered UIs. I also made vast improvements to the company's core platform, providing reusable social networking API utilities which included distributed queues, throttling, caching, and other niceties.

I was also involved in the company's first foray into iPhone development in collaboration with a prominent iPhone game publisher; our proprietary statistics tracking software was adapted to a high-volume mobile environment handling millions of daily requests via an iPhone library and a web API for receiving the statistical data and providing visual reports. I was involved in development of both the iPhone client library and the web API. I was also key in leading the team to adopt test-driven development for this and other projects.

Independent Facebook Launches

Dec '07 - Jan '08

Independently designed, developed, and deployed three Facebook applications in Ruby on Rails for the purpose of getting to know the Platform. *Bands & Music* allowed artists to upload their tracks to artist profiles and other users to become fans—this paradigm was later adapted by Facebook's Pages feature. Later launched *Before I Die*, an application for tracking, sharing, and discussing pre-mortem life goals. This was followed by *Reviews*, which pulled data from Amazon Web Services for users to post ratings and reviews about these products to their profiles.

Go.edu

Oct '06 - Mar '08

<http://goedu.com/>

Designed and developed user experience and functionality in rewriting the company's FoxPro-based K-12 school administration software using a PHP-powered web interface following the SaaS business model. My responsibilities included adapting the FoxPro interface to the web with CSS and JavaScript, developing new features, and maintaining database migration scripts. GoEdustar sees wide deployment throughout the United States, handling the schedules, health records, grade sheets, and more for over 150 public school districts.

Robertsons' Portraiture

May '05 - Jun '09

<http://www.robertsonsphoto.com/>

Designed, developed, deployed, and maintained a web portfolio for award-winning professional photographer Doug Robertson. Dynamic photo galleries and a direct-mail brochure opt-in form were developed in PHP.

Independent Web Launches

Sep '04 - Dec '05

Designed, developed, and deployed two PHP-based web applications on custom frameworks for the purpose of generating revenue from CPM and CPC advertising. *BehindTheLyrics* was a community site based around music and song lyrics; it included member registration with per-user blogs and discussion forums, all behind a custom-built fragment caching system. Also integrated with Amazon Web Services to provide links to music and merchandise related to the artists being discussed. Later launched *QuotableQuotes*, a taggable archive of famous quotations gathered from around the web and built upon many of the same code libraries developed in the creation of *BehindTheLyrics*.

Experience (cont'd)

Hostbaby

<http://www.hostbaby.com/>
Feb '04 - May '04

Designed two CSS web templates, *Shafted* and *Sleek Tech*, for Derek Sivers's Hostbaby service, a sister site to CDBaby, which provides a web presence platform for independent musicians. The templates, among the most popular on the site, each included 3-5 variations on a main theme, providing additional site layouts for artists utilizing the service.

CSS Zen Garden Official Design

Dec '03
<http://www.csszengarden.com/?cssfile=072/072.css>

The CSS Zen Garden web design exposition, curated by professional web designer Dave Shea, has been acclaimed for its simple way of showing the power of using CSS-based layouts over table-based layouts and helping to lead the charge into that brave new world when CSS layouts were still being pioneered. Thousands of entries were received and more are being sent to this day, yet only a couple hundred were accepted as official designs. Among those, I designed *Outburst*, which has been repeatedly adapted to other sites by other professionals with my permission.

Technology

Software

Mac OS X, Windows Vista, various *nix systems (most recently Solaris), TextMate, Eclipse, Xcode, Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Office Suite, Subversion, Capistrano, Apache Server, Mongrel, MySQL, MSSQL

Languages

C/C++, Objective C/C++, PHP, Java, Ruby, Python, SQL

Web Technologies

XML, (X)HTML, CSS, XSLT, XPath, ECMAScript (including cross-browser JavaScript with libraries such as jQuery, and ActionScript), Ajax

Skills

Object-oriented programming, application architecture, design patterns, database design, sensibility in user experience and usability principles

References

Alex Le

Chief Technical Officer at Serious Business

Colin McCloskey

Senior Software Engineer at Context Optional

Guarav Misra

Senior Software Engineer at Go.edu

Praise

"Chris has very clear strengths—he champions TDD and doing things 'the right way.' He has embraced the time management skills that others are struggling with and juggles multiple projects on his task list. He is responsive to clients and both engaged and excited about what he's working on. He doesn't let challenging situations stress him out."

- Scott Kleper, CTO, Context Optional

"Also, Chris Vincent did an awesome job on the project...It was really helpful having him in status calls with the client and he was always quick to respond!"

- Lan Phan, McCann Worldgroup