Jake Scruggs

Profile

I am passionate about teaching and collaboratively solving problems under the constraints of large software.

Experience

DEVOPS ENGINEER, GRAINGER; CHICAGO, IL – 2021 - PRESENT

Writing software to help Grainger developers move their code from development into production. Maintaining 2 production and 3 development Kubernetes clusters. Configuring Istio networking for reliability, security, and observability. Mentoring junior developers and interns.

DEVELOPER/ARCHITECT/MENTOR, BACKSTOP SOLUTIONS; CHICAGO, IL – 2010 - 2021

Stage One - Parity and Reliability: Helped RoR project achieve parity with, and replace, a troublesome PHP system while teaching idiomatic Ruby. Dealt with a project that had been written on a dare in a month by Java developers learning Ruby on Rails (Rails 2 and Ruby REE) to replace a PHP system. Increased Automated test coverage from ~10% to ~85%

Stage Two - Expansion and Standardization: Developed interview strategies to replace departing team members. Started 6 month structured mentorship program to bring on talented 'bootcamp' developers. Removed last of monkey patching keeping the project from upgrading. Built Clojure/Datomic REST service using a graph to provide custom document access rules to priority clients with a repository pattern on the Rails side to integrate ActiveRecord and access service information.

Stage Three - Improvement and Downsizing: Built Clojure/RabbitMQ/Oracle micro service to help cache changes from system of record so our RoR app could import data faster. This resulted in 20%-60% speed improvements with larger clients saving more time. Mentored two more developers changing careers via structured programs. Worked on a process to move from virtual machines to Docker/Nomad. A business pivot involved downsizing the team from 7 to 3. Set up systems/utilities to help a small team manage a complex project.

SENIOR CONSULTANT, OBTIVA; CHICAGO, IL – 2008-2010

Helped national 'Where to Go What to Do Website' train developers and implement a recommendation engine using Rails and AWS Hadoop. Built a Link Building (SEO) management application from idea to 1.0 while mentoring an apprentice.

CONSULTANT, THOUGHTWORKS; VARIOUS UNITED STATES LOCATIONS – 2004-2008

Experiences include: Implementing a major VOIP sign up web application, an IP space manager for a popular vm host, greenfield development and implementation of a social city portal startup, and adding features to a legacy multinational tractor leasing application.

APPRENTICE, OBJECT MENTOR; GURNEE, IL – SUMMER 2004

Helped re-write state machine compiler in C#, migrated an internal wiki from Python to Java, attended and assisted with many classes. Wrote about the experience: jakescruggs.com/blog/my- apprenticeship

Education

University of Illinois, Champaign, IL – M.S. Curriculum and Instruction, 1997

University of Illinois, Champaign, IL – B.S. Education, 1994

Skills

Teaching, presentation, mentorship, TDD/BDD, mocking/stubbing. pair programing, Extreme Programing, Dungeons and Dragons dungeon master.