

Mike Whitaker

Curriculum Vitae

The Mill House
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Profile

Perl developer and systems architect, with 20+ years experience in the planning, management, design, implementation and administration of high-traffic, multi-server web clusters running on colocated or cloud hardware and open-source software using modern Perl, Linux, Apache, MySQL.

Key Skills

- Modern Perl developer and evangelist, with particular emphasis on OO Perl and test-driven development, using Catalyst, Dancer, Moose, DBIx::Class
- MySQL database design and query optimisation
- Web cluster design - load balancing, caching, acceleration, inter-process communication
- Project architecture, specification, planning, management, using Agile and traditional methods.
- Linux server configuration and remote admin, network troubleshooting
- Experienced MacOS X user and admin
- Splunk log analysis/reporting system
- Fast learner, capable of using available resources to self-start on a project

Desired Salary

£70,000+

Experience

Senior Development Engineer, LOVEFiLM/ADCL, Oct 2011 - present

Lead developer for team responsible for development and maintenance of web-based DVD picking system for LOVEFiLM warehouse in Peterborough, using Dancer, DBI, Amazon Web Services, with a focus on maximizing picker throughput and providing reporting data for the business. Took Java-based recommendations service project through to completion, identifying and fixing a number of performance bottlenecks both in the code and related services.

Principal Software Engineer, BBC - Aug 2011 - Oct 2011

Part of team developing and maintaining REST service for TV programme metadata for BBC iPlayer and related products, using Catalyst, DBIx::Class, Moose.

Senior Software Engineer/Technical Lead, BBC - Jul 2009—Jul 2011

Development lead for six person iPayer Media Publishing team. Responsible for design and implementation of enhancements to video transcoding backend (Perl, using Moose and DBIx::Class) as well as deployment and operations scripts, and continued responsibility for monitoring with Splunk. Developed iSpy, a Perl event-based monitoring system to track progress of content through video transcoding process, integrated with Splunk.

Software Developer, Yahoo! UK Ltd. - Dec 2006-Jun 2009

Member of team responsible for maintenance of the backend of various Yahoo! UK/Europe media sites (News, Eurosport, Cars, Travel, etc) on a large scale Perl/PHP/MySQL hybrid platform.

Member of six person team developing and maintaining internal CMS system in OO Perl on FreeBSD/RedHat. Responsible for projects including integration of news feeds with new news article database, security overhaul of use of MySQL+DBI, addition of Unicode support, development of Agile development workflow (using Scrum) including continuous build & test-driven development.

System Architect, MindCandy Design Ltd. - Mar 2005-Nov 2006

Responsible for design and implementation of database backend, using OO Perl and mod_perl, for large online game site, designed for scalability, robustness, use of standards. Also responsible for infrastructure of game server cluster, including schemas, inter-server protocols, resource allocation and tuning. Responsible for design and implementation of web-based CMS, using OO Perl and the Vesta

SCS, for deployment of multiple small static and dynamic websites. System admin for enterprise-level mail server, development and live web clusters, backups, file server, intranet systems.

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Technical Director, TuxSports Ltd. - Nov 2004 - Feb 2005

Responsible for design/implementation of payment gateway for live audio and match tickets, shop and live cricket scoring software, including DB design/optimisation, chiefly in OO Perl, TT2 and MySQL.

System Architect, Wisden CricInfo Ltd. - Apr-Nov 1997 / Mar 1999 - Oct 2004

Designed & implemented the then current architecture for the CricInfo site, including system configuration, tuning and administration, for a cluster of 40+ web servers handling > 1M pages/day. Built AdLib web banner ad server, capable of handling 50+ insertions/second/server (at the time, performance matching doubleclick.net), written in OO Perl. Responsible for specification, initial implementation and management of development of next generation architecture for CricInfo, with database backend and templating engine (using OO Perl, Template Toolkit and MySQL).

System Administrator, Entropic Ltd., Cambridge - Dec 1997 - Mar 1999

Responsible for administration of mixed Unix and NT development environment, LAN, PABX

Senior System Admin, Demon Internet Ltd., London: 1996 - Apr 1997

Responsible for administration of customer facing mail servers.

ElectricMail Limited (now NetConnect), Cambridge: 1995

Responsible for development of Nautilus Internet gateway (LAN server for mail, web. etc with web GUI)

Shape Data Limited (now EDS Unigraphics), Cambridge - 1985-1994

Jointly responsible for porting a large 3D modelling engine to most commercial Unix platforms. Responsible for maintaining multi-platform development environment for team of 30 developers.

Education

- Clare College, Cambridge, UK: MA (II.ii) in Computer Science (1982-1985)
- Hymers College, Hull, UK: 4 A levels, 10 O levels (1974-1981)

Skills

- Fluent Perl, including Moose, Catalyst, DBIx::Class, Dancer, CPAN-style packaging, mod_perl, I18N, Template Toolkit, Class::DBI; CPAN ID: PENFOLD
- Agile/Scrum + test driven development, continuous build
- Splunk - Winner of 2011 Splunk Revolution award for BBC's use of Splunk to monitor iPlayer
- Application/project architecture and design, including design of web sites for high traffic;
- Amazon Web Services, particularly RDS, SQS/SNS, S3 and Perl APIs
- Linux installation/admin, package building;
- Co-founder of EnlightenedPerl.org - regular speaker at Perl conferences/tech meets
- Contributed patches to a number of Open Source projects (including Moose)

Leisure Interests

- Music: I play guitar, bass and drums (in church) and keyboards, have had several albums released worldwide, and run a home studio). Musical director for a SF rock opera I co-wrote and produced.
- Wargaming
 - co-presenter of the Meeples and Miniatures podcast
 - chair of Peterborough Wargames Club
- 3D Printing
- Keen amateur photographer - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/fleetfootmike/sets/1233837/>
- Produced a number of CD covers for small label releases, designed websites for various enterprises.
- Run 'FilkNet' - small IRC plus services network for the SF fandom/music community.
- Full UK driving license.

References

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