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PROFILE

I am currently the Chief Instructor at The Starter League in Chicago. I teach the beginner-focused *Web Development* course. I also am a Lecturer at the University of Chicago in the Computer Science Professional Program (also known as the Masters in Computer Science program). I have worked with object-oriented programming languages and application frameworks for more than 20 years. In 2008, I started Purple Workshops, conducting beginner-level workshops in Ruby, Rails, and agile software techniques.

I am co-author of the book *Ruby on Rails for .NET Developers* published by Pragmatic Press in 2008. I speak at a variety of technical conferences throughout the year. I am a Ruby on Rails core contributor, teacher, and writer.

I started learning computer programming in high school in the mid-1980's by using BASIC on a Commodore PET-32. I then learned 6502 Assembly, Pascal, C, C++, Prolog, PL/I, and a variety of Microsoft architectures including MFC, ATL, and .NET for both Windows-based desktops and ASP.NET web applications. In 2005 I ventured into open source languages and communities, notably Ruby and the Rails framework.

I believe in agile software strategies, project-based learning, and opening the world of computer programming to folks from all walks of life, by curating an inclusive, beginner-friendly classroom culture and curriculum.

PUBLICATIONS

Rails for .NET Developers. *Pragmatic Bookshelf*, 2008. 300 pages.

ISBN 978-1-93435-620-3. Currently out of print.

More info at <http://pragprog.com/book/cerailn/rails-for-net-developers>

Open Source Community Values, *PragPub Magazine*, Issue 28, Sept. 2011.

<http://pragprog.com/magazines>

EDUCATION

Northwestern University — Bachelor of Science, School of Speech, 1992.

EXPERIENCE

Chief Instructor, The Starter League; Chicago, IL — 2011-present

I joined The Starter League to teach their very first class offering and assume the role of Chief Instructor. I currently oversee four instructors and am ultimately responsible for the curriculum of 5 course offerings covering web development and design. I currently teach 26 hours per week, contribute to internal software projects, the company's public website, as well as online products we develop for student use.

I am well connected to the Chicago tech community, in particular the Ruby programming community, and speak at conferences in Chicago and across the country. My passion is to help everyone achieve the wonderful benefits of a solid education in computer programming and technology.

Lecturer, The University of Chicago; Chicago, IL — 2013-present

I'm honored to be an appointed Lecturer in the Computer Science Professional Program, pioneering a new course in modern Web Development. The course is geared for graduate students who have a background in programming but are new to web development and practical software engineering. The course is expected to be offered one or two times throughout the academic calendar.

Sr. Software Engineer and Lead Developer, Leapfrog Online; Evanston, IL — 2006-2011

At Leapfrog I was responsible for leading a team of 2-4 software developers as we built applications using the Ruby on Rails framework. I also acted as an agile team leader, mentor to employees across various teams, spoke at monthly lightning talks, and served on various engineering leadership committees.

I also introduced agile practices beyond the engineering teams, and held various roles as product owner and project manager to help bridge the gap between the engineering and business development teams.

Lead Developer, Crate&Barrel; Northbrook, IL — 2003-2006

At Crate&Barrel I held the position of Lead Developer for Retail Technology, which basically meant "everything inside a retail store": the point-of-sale systems, gift registry kiosks, and back-of-house mainframe terminals. I led the development of a completely new, .NET-based point-of-sale that's still in use today, deployed across every store in the chain (more than 125 nationwide). I also

taught internal classes on software development, testing, and alternative technologies.

Sr. Software Developer, InstallShield Software; Schaumburg, IL — 1998-2003

I rose from a Software Engineer to Lead Developer of *InstallShield Express*, contributed to the flagship *InstallShield* software, and other projects. It was all C++ for Windows desktops, back when we used compact discs to sell software.

Lead Developer, SSIS; Chicago, IL — 1997-1998

Used C++/ATL and didn't get to do much. Left after about 6 months when I saw no future for me there.

Software Developer, Med-E-Systems; Chicago, IL — 1995-1997

Used VB6 and C++/MFC to create software for handheld medical software. Part of a team, learned a lot, got my first exposure to real project management.

Software Developer, IRI; Chicago, IL — 1994-1995

Learned PL/1 to create statistical analyses of grocery store data.

Software Developer, ATLA; Evanston, IL — 1992-1994

My first job out of school (though not my first paid programming job) was at the American Theological Library Association when their headquarters were in Evanston. Learned Microsoft C, unix emulators, and full-text search mechanics.