Nicholas C. DeSteffen

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Senior Developer

Technical Proficiencies:

Ruby • Ruby on Rails • RSpec • jQuery • AWS • CoffeeScript • Backbone.js • MongoDB • Git • HAML / HTML • Redis • Nginx
SCSS / CSS • Linux • Sphinx • Capistrano • Java / J2EE • JavaScript • PostgreSQL • MySQL • Rake • Test::Unit • Subversion

Professional Experience:

BenchPrep – Chicago, IL (https://benchprep.com)
Senior Developer – *December 2011 – Present*

- Development of main Ruby on Rails 3.2 application using RSpec for unit test coverage
- Development of core web application study tool using Backbone.js and CoffeeScript
- Wrote custom reporting wrappers to simplify integration with Highcharts javascript charts and graphs
- Lead project to migrate custom email system to ExactTarget using their XML API
- Mentored and lead junior developers
- Lead database transition from MySQL to PostgreSQL
- Implemented subscription based payment system using Braintree Payment Solutions
- Performance tuning of web & mobile activity synchronization system
- Documented API to ensure consistent usage across all development teams
- Participated in project to break out single Rails application into 6 separate application codebases using a SOA
- Participated in development of Redis caching system and gem used across all API client applications
- Developed system for automatic calculation of royalty payouts to publishers
- Optimized slow SQL queries and N+1 database calls
- Upgraded several client applications from Rails 3.2 to 4.0
- Developed custom SSO system to allow partners to authenticate users

Eight Bit Studios – Chicago, IL (http://eightbitstudios.com)
Senior Developer *(Independently Contracted)* - *February 2011 – February 2012*

- Lead developer on Ruby on Rails 3.2 project allowing users to create and conduct market research surveys
- Developed rich GUI for building surveys using jQuery and jQuery UI
- Wrote a plugin for CKEditor to choose dynamic content to be inserted into user editable forms and interpolated using Nokogiri
- Developed a logic system for adjusting the flow of surveys at runtime based on prior question answers
- Integrated Zencoder, Carrierwave, and Uploadify for adding videos to surveys
- Optimized website for mobile device usage
- Built out backend reporting system for viewing survey results using jqPlot charts and graphics

Sharecare Inc. – Atlanta, GA
Contractor – *February 2012 – December 2013*

- Performed UI development of new online patient scheduling component of sharecare.com using Backbone.js
- Maintenance and support of WisePatient.com website

WisePatient (Acquired by Sharecare Inc.) – Chicago, IL (https://www.wisepatient.com)
Co Founder & Lead Developer - *January 2010 – February 2012*

- Member of founding team that built WisePatient.com and sold to ShareCare Inc. in February 2012
- Ruby / Rails development / systems administration / jQuery / CSS / UI development
- Prioritize business needs with partners using Basecamp for story management and collaboration
- Performed UI design and development of new features and enhancements
- jQuery / JSON based provider search including real time patient driven appointment scheduling solution
- Developed jQuery / JSON based provider calendar / scheduling solution
- Developed API for synchronizing data from multiple 3rd party practice management systems
- Integrated with Facebook and Google Maps
- Billing solution using Authorize.net
- Text messaging solution for sending out to appointment reminders with support for confirmation responses
- Developed messaging system for patients and providers to facilitate communication and scheduling of appointments

Active Radius LLC – Chicago, IL (http://www.activeradius.com, http://www.homelifeperks.com)
Lead Developer - *February 2010 – February 2011*
- Ruby / Rails development / systems administration / jQuery / CSS / UI development
- Lead developer of application designed for personalizing client perks portal
- Mentored 1 junior web developer and 1 QA developer
- Primary decision maker regarding vendors and technology used
- Built out and configured multiple server environments (production, staging, demo) using Amazon EC2
- Created and maintained Capistrano deployment script
- Took charge in initiating various Agile methodologies; Daily standup meetings, TDD, story writing, continuous integration, rapid release cycle
- Performed TDD using RSpec and Cucumber, 90% code coverage
- Setup Hudson CI server for managing automated build process
- Developed web based image cropper used to customize client portal website
- Integrated with Google and Yahoo for importing of contacts
- Integrated with Facebook and Twitter to allow users to post to their wall and Twitter stream
- Developed billing system using Authorize.net
- Integrated with offshore developed client portal built on Ruby on Rails and PostgresSQL
- Wrote scripts to load data from affiliate marketing websites; Commission Junction, LinkShare, Google Affiliates

My Health and Money LLC – Chicago, IL (https://www.myhealthandmoney.com)
Web Developer *(Independently Contracted)* - *May 2009 – February 2010*
- Member of core team that designed, built, and launched new website: www.myhealthandmoney.com using Ruby on Rails
- Participated in story writing sessions during initial concept of website and throughout development
- BDD was performed using Cucumber and Webrat
- Over 90% unit test coverage using RSpec
- Developed solution to mark users with invalid email addresses in order to reduce chance of being flagged as a spammer
- Developed process for loading monthly data feed from third party partner using Rake, FasterCSV, FTP libraries
- Took point on setting up Cucumber BDD framework for integration test coverage
- Used Nokogiri XML parser to pull data from partner website in order to quickly make new features available for members
- Wrote a plugin to bundle up application sorting logic spread throughout the codebase
- Integrated Google Maps view into facility directory

CarePages Inc. (a subsidiary of Waterfront Media) – Chicago, IL (https://www.carepages.com)
Web Developer - *May 2007 – April 2009*
- Member of team that rewrote www.carepages.com under a 6 month deadline to become a cutting edge social media website using Ruby on Rails and Rspec. CarePages.com has 1.5 million unique visitors and 30 million page views per month.
  - Integrated site with PayPal to receive donations
  - Integrated DoubleClick advertising solution
  - Developed solution for having over 350 unique themes and skins
  - Developed solution for uploading and displaying images
  - Enhanced user experience using AJAX technology
- Researched and implemented a CMS solution using OpenCms which reduced the number of code releases by 50%
- Practiced Agile development methodologies; focus on TDD, BDD, short iterations, story writing sessions, and pair programming
- Maintained a high quality codebase with over 90% unit test coverage
- Constantly refactored code in order to keep the codebase clean, consistent, and extendable
- Collaborated with design team to implement mockups and wireframes developed by creative team
- Partnered with QA department to maintain quality and consistency throughout the site
- Collaborated with DBA to optimize database intensive queries
- Participated in code reviews and team refactoring sessions
- Enhanced and Maintained legacy J2EE/Oracle www.carepages.com web platform
- Worked with customer support to resolve user issues
- Performed site performance monitoring

eVentive LLC – Chicago, IL
Senior Consultant - *September 2006 – May 2007*
- Developed reports from an Oracle database using Crystal Reports
- Maintained report repository using Crystal Enterprise
- Integrated the business workflow engine, LogicBase Studio, with Microsoft SQL Server 2005

Fiserv Health (now owned by UnitedHealthCare) – Wausau, WI
Systems Analyst - *August 2003 – September 2006*
- Lead developer on 3 applications; Member of team that supported 13 applications
- Performed maintenance and support of entire suite of applications hosted on www.fiservhealthservices.com and www.fiserve.com
- Responsible for working with other business units in order to gather requirements, design application screens, perform database modeling, develop core application code, and develop UI
- Key contributor in the development of the main portal application built on top of Apache Jetspeed-1
- Key contact for maintenance and support of main portal application
- Integrated OpenCms content management system into main portal
- Researched and developed several portlets to utilize AJAX technology to provide the user with an enhanced experience
- Responsible for writing business reports using Microsoft Reporting Services and Crystal Reports

Stora Enso North America – Stevens Point, WI
Intern - *April 2002 – August 2003*
- Created and maintained critical information displays on local intranet using ASP and HTML that was required to be available 24/7
- Wrote reports from an Oracle database in Oracle Developer 2000 and Crystal Reports 8.5
- Performed programming tasks in VB6 and VBA for internal office applications
- Various technical support and helpdesk duties

Education:

University of Wisconsin Stevens Point – Stevens Point, WI
May 2003

Bachelor of Science, Computer Information Systems