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PROFILE

A focused business and product development professional with a strong technical aptitude. A logical thinker and organizer with highly developed written and oral communication skills. Combines creativity and technical innovation to deliver products and initiatives that exceed expectations.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Communications
Control programs
User interfaces
Systems design
Database design

I have been involved with computers for over 30 years. Most of that time has been involved with MS-DOS, Unix and CP/M systems. I have also had some exposure to VAX systems and Novell networking.

I program in a variety of languages specializing in Python and C. I also program in assembler for the 8080, Z80 and iAPX family (80x86) and Progress 4GL and have some experience with BASIC, PostScript, Bourne shell, awk and others. I work extensively with database design and programming specializing in PostgreSQL.

CAREER SUMMARY

2006 - Present Vex Consulting Incorporated
President & owner

Vex Consulting is a private company founded to take over the operation of Vex.Net (<http://www.Vex.Net/>), an ISP that has operated since February, 1998. Vex Consulting also does general consulting and software development. As founder and President I have successfully lead the company from start-up to a working, profitable company.

Developed corporate vision and strategy and built processes and systems to automate operations and account provisioning and billing. Successfully turned company around from brink of insolvency to profitability in 5 months after taking over management. Increased customer satisfaction and sales through proactive client contact and improved customer service.

1998 - 2006 VexTech Corporation
President

VexTech is a private company originally formed to operate Vex.Net and act as an umbrella corporation for consulting services. Most of my time during this period was spent on a full time contract with Givex as described below. There were some interesting projects started during this period. See below for a select list of highlights.

1999 - 2005 Givex Corporation (<http://www.givex.com/>)
Chief Technology Officer

Developed entire stored value gift card system from scratch. This work involved writing and building all aspects of the technology personally in the early years to managing a team of developers, analysts, testers and support personnel.

Implemented the entire system almost exclusively using open source software on commodity hardware.

Instituted agile programming practices that significantly improved the quality of our product while still allowing rapid development under an environment of quickly changing requirements.

Developed a database replication system tailored to our requirements that allows all systems to be updated in real time all over the world.

Participated in all top level management meetings giving input on all aspects of the company.

1997 - 1999 Various

Worked on various projects including enhancing a proprietary accounting system and ISP billing and management system. Consulted for many small clients. Some specific projects include the following.

Set up a stock trading system. This involved setting up a system to capture stock market quotes from a satellite feed, store selected items and make them available to programs for further evaluation. To do this I wrote a number of tools which are designed to be used in shell scripts in various combinations. This includes tools to convert data from other sources (Tick Data, Technical Tools, etc.) for historical use, data printing programs, programs to generate data bars of various sizes and subroutines for reading input data in a standard way. I Also wrote a stock analysis program based on a client's specifications which uses the data collected in the above mentioned system. The results of the analysis program are forwarded to the client in Britain each night.

An accounting package in Progress RDBMS. This included A/R, A/P, G/L and a custom order entry and invoicing module to meet a clients very specific requirements. At the same time I built tools which allow me to quickly deliver a semi-custom accounting application by setting up a few details in a script file. The application allows the client to print bar coded tickets designed to their client's specifications by modifying simple shell scripts. The client has made special note of the user interface of the system which is user friendly while not being overly restrictive.

A number of programs to generate tickets on special bar code printers including one for Grand & Toy which is used in their stores to access their data base and generate price tickets.

Wrote a Windows DLL to control a Sony Betacam recorder. This included writing a small macro language which allowed scripts to be used to control the device.

Other projects include converting graphics files from one format to another, menu systems, a mouse interface, a character based window system, special printer controllers and a Canadian mortgage program.

1994 - 1997 Internet Canada
Vice president

Built and managed the first Canadian continent wide ISP. Lead early development to rescue the project from a consultant who was not managing the project very well. Worked with an existing situation that was less than ideal in terms of hardware but managed to build on it and expand it to the point that it became a multi-million dollar enterprise.

1990 - 1994 Monarch Marking (a division of Pitney Bowes)
Pre sales technical representative

Monarch Marking sold and serviced a wide variety of marking devices such as price tags and labels. Responsible for consulting with potential clients to analyze their operation and determine how our products could best be used to improve their operation. This often included writing custom software.

1982 - 1990 BDH computer Systems
Programmer

BDH sold commodity computers starting with CP/M systems at first and moved into DOS systems. Worked in a number of areas including programming, repair and support. Some specific projects include;

Design of a task router for a VAX system allowing job flow to be routed over a DECnet link. Each job is composed of various tasks and the tasks are handled by different machines. A single job could use the resources of VAX machines, MS-DOS computers, MacIntoshes and any other system that can be connected to the DECnet link. I designed the specifications for the router which was implemented by a VAX knowledgeable programmer. I also wrote a number of task handlers to work with this system as well as an assembler interface to Ryan-MacFarland COBOL to communicate with the task router over the DECnet link. I later re-implemented the task router on a Unix system but have not installed or extensively tested it yet.

Design and implementation of a communications system for MS-DOS systems. This project involved three basic parts. The first was a TSR which intercepted all screen and keyboard access at the BIOS level and mirrored it to the serial port. This included translating all screen calls to ANSI escape sequences and checking for loss of carrier. This was an interrupt driven system in 8086 assembler. The second part was a control program which answered the phone and logged users in. The third part consisted of various programs to interface with the system although ordinary programs could also be used.

A Halo based drawing package. This was used for making large posters. Included were font drawing and font editing functions.

EDUCATION

No formal education beyond high school. Everything I have learned has been self taught from working in the field or playing with the technology.

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Developer for NetBSD (<http://www.NetBSD.org/>)
Developer for PostgreSQL (<http://www.PostgreSQL.org/>)
Developer and maintainer of PyGreSQL (<http://www.PyGreSQL.org/>)
Contributor to comp.lang.c FAQ
Past moderator of our local Unix discussion group

PERSONAL INTERESTS AND HOBBIES

I have played a little soccer and coached house league. I also wrote a system for managing players, games and referees for a local soccer league.

I play music, mostly bass guitar with some lead guitar, keyboards and harmonica. My musical tastes are classic rock, swing and R&B.

Motorcycling. I own two Gold Wing motorcycles and my wife and I love to ride whenever we can.

FURTHER DETAILS AND REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST