J. Daniel Ashton

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PROFILE

I'm a thoughtful, quality-driven, details-conscious programmer passionate about writing beautiful, high-performance code in Scala, Ruby, Java or Perl. I appreciate open source for its principles and Apple products for their aesthetics. I'm an advocate for test-driven development, a natural thought-leader, and I slip easily into a role of mentoring or teaching those around me. I love learning how the tools we use can do even more to make us productive and to ensure the quality of our code. And I revel in problem solving, especially debugging and performance tuning. My dream job would be to work from home as an employee supplied by some company to a major open-source project, such as Eclipse.

SKILLS HIGHLIGHTS

- Expert programmer in Java, Perl, C and C++, comfortable in Scala and Ruby, fluent in HTML and XML, JavaScript and AJAX
- Extensive experience using Eclipse, created pluglets and plug-ins
- Experience with OS/390, TSO, Unix System Services and CICS, MQSeries, DB2 and SQL on various database engines
- Significant experience with web servers and application servers, including Apache and WebSphere, JBoss and Jetty
- Recognized expertise with Windows, AIX, Solaris, Linux, OpenStep and other Unices, OS/2, and Novell Netware
- Deep understanding of multithreading, interprocess communication, and performance issues
- Aggressive performance tuner and code cleaner
- Twenty-two years of professional programming experience
- Problem solver; communicator; mentor; and quick study

EDUCATION

B.S. Computer Science, Southern College 1990
    Cum Laude
    Southern Scholar
    Who's Who Among
        Students in
        American Colleges

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

2004 CompTIA Linux+
    Certified
    Professional
2001 Sun Certified
    Programmer for
    Java 2 Platform
1994 OS/2 Engineer
1994 LAN Server
    Administrator
1994 LAN Server
    Engineer

INTERESTS

- New languages and platforms: recent focus on applying Scala and Lift
- Anything you can do in Perl
- Open Source: Linux and all the rest
- Mac OS X: It's Unix *and* it's too sweet for words.

Senior I/T Specialist
IBM Business Consulting Services :: Gaithersburg, MD
September 2010 – present
- Senior Java developer working with the processing team, forms support team and rules development teams. Implemented and tested IRS business rules. Designed and implemented a number of developer tools, including an XML/XSLT framework for consistent rendering of IRS forms in IE6 and Eclipse plug-ins to facilitate developer work-flow.

Senior I/T Specialist
IBM Business Consulting Services :: Annapolis Junction, MD
March 2010 – August 2010
- Work with and provide leadership to one of the development teams implementing a government web site using WebSphere Application Server and Java, with IBM's rich Rational tool suite. Also support and liaison with the tools support team. Additionally researched and advocated a wealth of tools necessary to automate much of the development, testing and deployment process, as well as taking these recommendations through two change-control boards.

Senior I/T Specialist
IBM Business Consulting Services :: Fairfax, VA
February 2010 – March 2010
- Provided database administration services in substitute for a team member on maternity leave. Worked with the customer to exchange database dumps and updates, provided data analysis and scrubbing.

Senior I/T Specialist
IBM Business Consulting Services :: Gaithersburg, MD
June 2009 – February 2010
- Developed client-facing and publicly-visible features of the IRS Modernized e-File portal as Java servlets running on WebSphere. Handled builds and deliveries and integration tests. Improved accessibility features for compliance with Section 508 standards.

Senior I/T Specialist
IBM Business Consulting Services :: Gaithersburg, MD
November 2006 – May 2009
- Represented the technical interests of architecture and prototyping team, providing guidance on deployment and use of development tools and systems for the larger project team. Developed prototypes for team pathfinding exercises researching tool integration,

migration and customization. Represented the IBM-led team in major project planning events: and served as technical expert for questions on IBM's development tools. Also facilitated communication between project members and the IBM tools experts, and served as liaison with the development tools hosting team.

Senior I/T Specialist
IBM Business Consulting Services :: Alexandria, VA
May 2006 – October 2006
- Delivered significant enhancements to the FEMA MapMod web site; performed as a key team member developing and debugging Java classes, servlets, portlets, JSPs, and client-side XHTML, JavaScript and CSS. Consulted on numerous technical improvements to the teams working environment, ranging from ClearCase and ClearQuest enhancements to server-side AIX/Unix tools. Served as mentor to several junior team members.

Senior I/T Specialist
IBM Business Consulting Services :: Columbia, MD
March 2005 – March 2006
- Delivered configuration support and education on IBM Rational tools and technologies for a team working on a US Government contract. Provided critical organization and assistance to subcontracting team. Designed and developed tools to integrate data from diverse sources. Reviewed and recommended changes to firewall configuration and performed network administration.

Senior I/T Specialist
Centers for IBM e-business Innovation :: Gaithersburg, MD
October 2004 – January 2005
- Assisted with development, delivery and maintenance of U. S. Mint catalog website, the eSP project. Technologies included WebSphere Commerce Suite with Net.Data and DB2 running on NT, together with Domino on Linux. Performed Linux maintenance.

Senior I/T Specialist
IBM Global Services AMS :: Gaithersburg, MD
August 2001 – August 2004
- Implemented the CADE system, a part of the IRS modernization effort. Using C++ on OS/390 V2R10, developed CICS transactions interfacing with DB2, MQSeries, docSense Finalist and other products. Served as local expert on Rational SoDA for Microsoft Word, extracting design documentation from Rational Rose. Taught classes on TSO/ISPF and Debug Tool. Developed makefile-based build process. Developed internal web repository for product documentation.

Advisory I/T Specialist
Centers for IBM e-business Innovation :: Atlanta, GA
July 1997 – August 2001

- Designed and implemented communication and control protocols and engine for the new networked racing game at IBM's Epcot exhibit. Exploited advanced technologies such as Microsoft Windows multithreading and IP socket-based networking APIs, as well as Linux pthreads and native sockets for interprocess communication. Interfaced networking engine with game code (developed in 3rd-party proprietary tool) for score keeping and game state synchronization, as well as player data centralization and image display within the game. Designed and created Java-based console to monitor game server states. Provided onsite technical direction and assistance while installing the game at Epcot.

- Served as solutions expert across all technologies for deployment of the New York Stock Exchange web site, providing critical leadership and technical expertise for deployment debugging, performance tuning and problem solving. Designed and implemented various server-side programs, including interfacing to 3rd-party data feed API to create graphical display of markets indicators (including the orange, grey and black market status graphic on the front page and others) with automated daily and holiday scheduling, and reformating of news stories. Designed and implemented stock quote server for the various ticker applets, utilizing Netscape's WAI technology (a fast CGI-like API based on CORBA and implementable in Java or C++). Designed and implemented caching module which more than doubled server throughput. Designed and implemented automated pull of data from the SEC's EDGAR online database. Managed scheduling of server-side jobs and balancing of server resources. Implemented and optimized server synchronization technologies to distribute published documents across all servers.

- Recognized as the local TaxWare expert. Consulted and engaged to implement sales tax solutions on numerous web site development and maintenance projects, including sites for Macys, Blair, the NFL, the NBA and others.

- Participated with team members to design and implement client-specific enhancements and extensions to Net.Commerce (now WebSphere Commerce Suite) for Macys, Blair and other customers. Interfaced with Net.Commerce developers. Designed and implemented modifications to the Net.Commerce code and database schema to implement customer-specific calculations, such as calculating region-based shipping charges or sales tax on shipping charges. Implemented product family shopping using Net.Commerce Catalog Architect for the Kmart in-store service station.

- Recognized as the local version control expert, especially with respect to IBM's Configuration Management and Version Control (CMVC). Implemented Perl-based web/CGI front-end for CMVC.

Contract Programmer
IBM Multimedia Division, Atlanta, GA
January 1996 – July 1997

Worked with Multimedia Kiosk development group to design and implement kiosks for Promus Hotels and Angelica Uniforms. Projects included control and peripheral code written in C and interfaced to a multimedia engine implemented in Ultimedia Builder. Became a specialist in inter-process communication and multithreaded architecture. Also participated in the port of this kiosk architecture to Windows NT, and development of a kiosk for Florsheim Shoes.

Applications Programmer
McKee Foods Corporation, Collegedale, TN
1990 – 1996

Managed transition from DOS, Netware, proprietary communication system to OS/2, JAS, LAN Server and NFS system. Designed and wrote gateway to integrate the new and old systems. Redesigned and rewrote this gateway exploiting OS/2 resources, including multithreading, semaphores, queues and extended attributes. Wrote major upgrade to McKee software for NORAND hand-held computers. Managed and maintained telecommunication networks. Provided informal support for OS/2, DOS and Windows. Administered corporate CompuServe account, including use of the CompuServe Lotus Notes service.

INTERESTS BEYOND WORK
- My God, and my church family
- My wife and children
- Music: I direct a church choir, lead a brass ensemble and am concert-master of the Montgomery Philharmonic.

GET TO KNOW ME BETTER
You can get a small sample of my writing, technical depth and coding style from the questions I've asked on StackOverflow.com: http://stackoverflow.com/users/749464/daniel-ashton

You can learn a lot about me by considering the books you would find on my Kindle, on my bookshelf or lying open on my desk:
- Current articles from *Slashdot* and *Ars Technica*
- Recent issues of *PragPub* magazine
- *The Pragmatic Programmer* – Hunt & Thomas
- *Refactoring* – Fowler
- *Test-Driven Development* – Beck
- *Eclipse Plug-ins* – Clayberg & Rubel
- *Java Developer's Guide to Eclipse* – D'Anjou *et al*
- *Higher-order Perl* – Dominus

- *The Developer's Code* – Cheung
- *Exploring Lift* – Chen-Becker *et al*
- *Programming in Scala* – Odersky *et al*
- *Programming Ruby 1.9* – Thomas
- *The Art of Readable Code* – Boswell & Foucher
- *Thinking in Java 4* – Eckel
- *Seven Languages in Seven Weeks* – Tate
- *Driving Technical Change* – Ryan
- *Land of Lisp* – Barski

To see what I'm like outside the office, I invite you to view my Facebook page, which reflects (among other things) some of my musical community involvements and my contributions to charitable computing projects. https://www.facebook.com/jdashton

REFERENCES
Available upon request