

Paul McNett

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Professional Objective:

To design, develop, deploy, and support Python applications in a creative, fast-paced environment.

Skills:

Effective cross-platform web and GUI custom application development using Python, wxPython, mod-python, PHP, ReportLab, MySQL, and Subversion. Effective Windows web and GUI custom application development using Microsoft Visual FoxPro and Crystal Reports. Can hand-code complex SQL relational database queries, and am proficient using Python to interact with various backend databases such as MS-SQL, MySQL, and Firebird. Effective at building and maintaining Linux server and desktop systems. Familiar with Microsoft Office automation, regular expressions, and XML.

Communicate extremely well with clients, listen to their needs and engage in effective dialog to come up with the best solution to the problem at hand.

Relevant Experience:

Independent Software Consultant - Hollister, California, Jan. 2000 – present

Improved business processes for several clients by analyzing needs, installing, maintaining, and augmenting vertical or off-the-shelf solutions, and programming custom database applications. Performed systems integration, network administration, and other technical services. Developed library for flowing transactions into Peachtree and Quickbooks, allowing integration between custom and off-the-shelf software. Developed application framework in Visual FoxPro, and later reimplemented the best elements of this framework in Python, to transition from Windows-only to multiplatform development and deployment of custom data-aware business applications.

Computer Consultant, Professional Computer Solutions - Hollister, California, Dec. 1997 – Dec. 1999

Worked with dozens of clients setting up and maintaining accounting systems such as Peachtree, Quickbooks, Great Plains, and MAS-90, maintaining network operating systems such as Windows NT, Novell, and UNIX, programming small web-based solutions using Perl, programming large custom solutions using Visual FoxPro, building systems, and maintaining the network of in-house computers.

Independent Software Consultant - Hollister, California, Oct. 1994 – Nov. 1997

Designed, developed, and deployed three custom business applications in Microsoft FoxPro and Visual FoxPro, all of which have been maintained and are still in use today.

Professional Development:

Microsoft Certified Professional since 2000. Published three technical articles in trade journal *FoxTalk* in 2003. Presented two papers on application development on Linux at the *Great Lakes Great Database Workshop* in October 2003. Presented the Dabo project at five user group meetings in late 2004 and early 2005. Co-led an informal discussion of Dabo at PyCon 2005. Active contributor to several technical email lists.

Education:

Bachelor's of Arts, Modern Society and Social Thought, UC Santa Cruz, Jun. 1992

Learned technical knowledge from experience, but this degree helped develop strategies for critical thinking and understanding complex systems, which is indispensable during the design phase and in dialog with clients.

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Selected Projects and Clients:

Dabo Framework - Hollister California, Feb. 2004 – present

Developed an open-source business application framework in Python, in online collaboration with one other developer. The framework's design goal is to provide an easy to use, flexible interface to multiple database backends, such as MySQL, Oracle, and MS-SQL, a robust business-object layer, and a consistent API to multiple frontend user interfaces (wxPython, Tkinter, PyQt, http...). Contributed a significant amount of code and guidance to the open source project, and began work on The Dabo Book, which will be a general reference and tutorial for new users of the framework. Gained in-depth experience maintaining the Dabo source repository using Subversion, and dealing with public submission of code patches and suggestions. See <http://dabodev.com> for more information about the project.

happycookers.com - Hollister California, 1995 – present

Designed and developed a custom application in Microsoft FoxPro for point of sale, vendor, purchase order, inventory, recipe, cooking class, and Quickbooks accounting system interface. This developed quickly into a multi-user system, and in later periods into a full-blown ecommerce web store using Microsoft IIS, West-Wind Web Connection, Visual FoxPro, and MySQL. The system runs every level of critical business process to this day, with little maintenance required. See the web portion of the application in action at <http://www.happycookers.com>.

San Benito Shutter Co., Inc. - Hollister California, Jan. 1999 – present

This manufacturer of custom window shutters needed an easy way for their employees to enter detailed order specifications, send order confirmations and invoices, track order history and status, and print cutsheets for their manufacturing plant. Off-the-shelf or vertical solutions would not work because of the highly-customized nature of their process. Developed the application in 1999 using Microsoft Visual FoxPro, and have actively enhanced it ever since in response to growing needs. The client has expressed that the custom application was an essential element to their success, and the production facility keeps growing. The business-critical application is very easy to maintain due to the conscious separation of tiers, sane coding practices, and excellent communication with the client.

Community Foundation Silicon Valley - San Jose California, Jan. 2000 – Jun. 2001 and on occasion to present

The foundation's application was already in place, but lacked the detailed and customized reports needed for executive summaries, statements sent to donors, and internal analyses. Where feasible, coded their custom reports using the design tool available in the Foundation Information Management System (FIMS) application against the Progress backend database. There were at least two projects where client needs exceeded the capabilities of the FIMS reporting tool, however, so instead used a combination of Microsoft Visual FoxPro, Crystal Reports, Microsoft Excel, ODBC, and COM Automation to provide the ultimate solution. Trained staff to design reports in Crystal using my reports as templates, and provided technical guidance to the IT department. Retained as on-call consultant for designing complex Crystal Reports.

References

Available on request.