Brett Harris

I am a user experience professional. I figured out how computers work when I was in elementary school. I developed my first piece of software when I was in middle school. I earned a degree in Information Sciences and Technology at Penn State.

Since I started my career, I've focused on making software better. Not just through great interactions, simple navigation, or compelling interfaces, but by making software something with which users form positive relationships.

Education

Pennsylvania State University
Bachelor of Science in Information Science & Technology

Certifications

HCI Certified Usability Analyst

Zend Certified Engineer

Enrolled in TOGAF 9 Level 1

Publications

Facebook Development using Zend Framework
ZendCon 2008

ExtJS: An Introduction
JSMag, March 2009

Disciplines

Content Management

Interaction Design

Interface Design

Usability Analysis

Front End Development

Technologies

CMS: CoreMedia, WordPress

CSS: 3, responsive, mobile

HTML: 4, 5, XHMTL

JS: jQuery, ExtJS, Sencha Touch

Java: Tiles, Spring, JSTL

PHP: Zend Framework 1 & 2

Tools

Adobe: Fireworks, Photoshop, Illustrator. No Flash.

Balsamiq, Azure

Sencha: Architect, Cmd

Eclipse

Maven, Bamboo, Archiva, SVN, Git

Version1, Jira, Confluence

"stop building interactions.
start building relationships."

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What I'm doing now

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES

User Experience Architect   *04.2011 - present*

For the past two years, I served on the enterprise architecture team. My focus is on improving user experience as a practice at the association. I accomplished this goal by establishing standards and tools for development teams and by integrating them as a core building block for application development.

The standards and tools consist of page layouts, CSS, HTML, images, and JavaScript. These components were developed to strength our visual identity and required collaboration with business customers and our design department. Once we reached agreement, I integrated the components into our Java development process using Spring and Maven integration, allowing all development teams to utilize and stay current as the standards evolve.

To supplement all of the template and visual design work, I created documentation for our coding standards for HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. This documentation provides instruction for developers to help them maintain our standards within their applications.

I also served as a solutions architect on numerous projects, under the mentorship of my manager and teammates.

I worked with business partners to evaluate feasibility of upcoming projects and to brainstorm solutions using existing building blocks to deliver solutions. Some examples include: integrating our single sign-on solution to our SaaS learning portal; establishing a pattern for displaying SAP reports on our public website; evaluating requirements and vendors for an social enable intranet site to facilitate inter-department collaboration.

I have also been assigned as a solutions architect on development projects. My responsibilities entailed documenting the architecture using TOGAF deliverables, communicating the architecture to the development team, and ensuring adherence to the architecture. Some examples include: a re-engineering project of moving a content driven site from ColdFusion to a CMS driven Java/Spring site; two closely related applicant processing applications who shared web services and user interface components; a proof of concept for a portfolio management site that would integrate internal and external data sources via an enterprise service bus; our first mobile application for reading and sharing news stories, campaigns, and other content.

see more: brettharris.com/portfolio

What else I've done

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES

Lead Software Engineer   *12.2006 - 04.2011*

My first project with the AAMC was leading a team of developers in creating a new application for medical students which allows them to apply for electives at schools other than their own. I was tasked with designing the user interface for a complex transactional application while gathering and evolving business requirements. Designing for the application's distinct user groups, medical students and school admissions staff, presented unique challenges. Our efforts were recognized by a 83% satisfaction rate and a 700% increase in participation after the first year.

My second undertaking has been implementation of CoreMedia, a content management system (CMS), for two large web properties. The first property, aamc.org, was converted from static HTML. The second property, mededportal.org, was built from the ground up. I worked with consultants and our developers to learn the platform and implement the website in the CMS. My roles were additionally focused on assisting staff with content migration and information architecture for the new site. My previous experience in content management helped me lead the team to a successful completion.

CONDUIT INTERNET TECHNOLOGIES

Software Engineer, Project / Account Manager   *08.2004 - 10.2006*

As an account manager, it was my responsibility to take over at the end of the sales cycle by meeting with clients to train staff and gather requirements. These two objectives worked together by allowing me to provide visualization of concepts and determine the scope of our engagement. I spent significant effort creating information architectures to both streamline internal management of data and segment products by market and application.

As a software engineer, I oversaw the development of product catalog management software for 2 ½ years. I was responsible for customizing our CMS to implement client websites and product catalogs. Because Conduit was a startup, the CMS evolved as each new client had different needs. This rapid growth required me to standardized our software to accommodate varying client needs while still being centrally maintainable and profitable. By standardizing our code, we were able to spend less time on customizations and deliver sites more efficiently.

BUSTIN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS, INC.

Systems Developer, Webmaster   *06.2000 - 08.2004*

As a member of the IT department at a manufacturing company, I faced interesting user experience problems. Understanding internal and external customers' needs and behaviors was critical to the success of the applications I developed.

For internal customers, I developed integrated systems to support sales, accounting, and engineering departments. These systems integrated legacy, mainframe systems.

For external customers, I managed the website and incorporated a customer portal which provided streamline quote requesting, shipment tracking, and other perks for regular customers. The portal also provided the sales team with leads and focused marketing demographics.