

Lakedata.net

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My computing roots.

- BASIC, PL1, and COBOL in college, COBOL using keypunch and card readers
- 1980 Graduated Magna Cum Laude from [Missouri State](#) with a degree in Business, Economics minor.
- 1985 While working for [Loren Cook Co](#), Springfield, MO as an outside sales engineer, helped a sales rep set up a fan engineering program on a dual disc [TRS-80](#) in Denver. I think it was the model II. It had 8" floppy disc drives and was the "big business" computer of the day.
- 1988-89 bought a pc for personal use, an 8086(IBM XT clone) running dos, it was one of the first home machines to include a built in hard drive.
- From then to present, a variety of personal computers and applications on them, pretty much keeping up with technology. A 286, 386, P60, Pentium Pro, PII, PIII, G4, G5, Core Duo. DOS, Windows, Windows for Workgroups, Windows 95, [IBM OS2](#), [OS2 Warp](#), Windows NT, Windows NT Server, Windows 2000, most popular flavors of linux, a very short time with Windows XP before switching pretty much exclusively to OS X, [freeBSD](#), and the [web development paradigm](#).
- 1991-92 While working on some very specialized ventilation equipment that involved UV-C germicidal lamps inserted in ductwork, I developed engineering models for a method of calculating and displaying energy output in an enclosed space and displaying the results graphically using the macro capabilities of Quattro Pro Version 5.0 spreadsheets.
- 1993 - I was exploring Borland Paradox and computer databases as a pastime when approached by a transportation brokerage looking for software to replace the rolodex and big chief. They had looked at proposals from fox pro developers but weren't impressed with all the screens that had to be navigated to get something done. They asked what I could do. I built them exactly what they requested, (they would draw it out on paper and I would put together the tables and the forms) using Paradox.

- I got fairly deep into the api (objectpal) and could do some pretty fancy stuff (including Paradox to EDI, Paradox to Quickbooks translations) but soon started developing with Delphi a much more powerful programming environment that included the ability to control SQL databases. I had explored turbo pascal a little on that first 8086 machine and was impressed with how easy it was compared to BASIC. Delphi was based upon turbo pascal, enforced a fairly strict development pattern, and offered full access to the windows API. [Anders Hejlsberg](#), the chief architect responsible for Delphi at Borland, went on to become the lead developer of the C# language which plays an important part in the Microsoft .net framework.
- I began developing for the web on a windows 2000 operating system using mysql and IIS. That was a real struggle, in terms of getting everything set up correctly and keeping it running. Then I tried Linux. In complete contrast to the IIS experience, Apache on Linux was easy to set up, fast, and most importantly rock solid stable. Then I tried running FreeBSD on an old laptop to act as a database and web server for testing purposes. I was blown away by how simple it was to set up, how it ran 24x7x365, and how fast it could serve huge amounts of data very quickly from a 4200 rpm laptop drive. I actually used that laptop as a bona fide web server a few times.
- I have used Lotus, Wordperfect, the early Microsoft Office products, CAD and graphics programs, including Pro Engineer, most Symantec, Norton, and Borland products. Exposure to many different operating systems, using and testing software from diverse vendors, and developing custom applications has created in me a fair intuition regarding how most programs work and how people interface with technology. The original search engine, AltaVista, wasn't bad when it first came out, but I switched to Google the very first time I saw it. That was before the days of search tools, organizing the web to most meant figuring out how to use NetScape bookmarks.
- Since then, I have installed, tested, and reviewed the offerings from at least a hundred open source projects, mostly in the crm, cms, erp, and project management categories. These reviews include reading the code (php, html, javascript, css, sometimes xml) and sometimes getting involved in the forums to get a feel for where the project was really going. I have seen some good projects fail to gain enough traction to get off the ground. That is disappointing, but at least I still have the code, and can continue using the application as long as I want. Not nearly as disappointing as when favorites like WordPerfect 6 for dos, Borland Sidekick, and the last decent version of Quickbooks (3.0), got kicked to the curb and are just gone, with no way to resurrect them. That is my primary reason for being a fan of open source. Nobody can arbitrarily take it away from you or force you into lesser quality wares at a higher price in the name of an upgrade.
- Most recently, I have focused development efforts on the Zend Framework which provides standardized patterns for accessing basically any kind of web service and every popular sql database. Check out IBM's [QEDWiki](#) and [Magento](#) eCommerce for fully featured examples of the possibilities. Using just a few of the many high quality pieces that make up the framework, a developer can build just about anything. I put together a reasonably full featured email archiving system in a couple of days using the Zend Framework. I also try to keep an eye on Apache Software Foundation offerings, particularly the [ofBiz](#) application.
- [Web 2.0](#) strictly as proposed by O'Reilly was a revelation when I discovered it. The concepts re-inforced what I believed and explained the direction I had been going in the past few years. The web is the platform. Simple interfaces that harness the power of community, real time or right time communications, right sized content, layouts defined and adjusted at will by end users, daily adaptations that enrich and enlighten users, these are the future of technology.

Achievements

- Developed a comprehensive and user friendly transportation dispatch software system from scratch beginning in 1994 that survived into 2008 with no Y2K problems in between.
- Developed a complete database to EDI outbound 210 and 214 data exchange transformation. The ASCII to EBCDIC was handled by Serengeti Systems software, but other than that it was entirely written by me in 1997 and was still in use in 2008.
- Developed a database to Quickbooks integration that automated data transfer into Quickbooks for invoicing.
- Developed and deployed a variety of custom database solutions for brokering truckload freight using windows, SQL, and open source technologies.
- Used TurboPower Async Professional modem and serial port communications library for transmitting data from outlying offices, back in the days before the WWW.
- Set up and maintained Local Area Networks for the home office and outlying offices.
 - First with WFW 3.11 and coax
 - Next using windows 95 machines on coax, then ethernet
 - Later with NT Server and NT clients
 - Most recently with OS X server, NT, Windows 2000, Windows XP, and OS X clients joined via ethernet, wireless, and the internet
 - No lost data, or unexpected down time (except for external causes) during the 13 years I administered these networks
- Provided secure WAN access from the days of BBS, then modem/POTS internet access, most recently satellite, dsl, and high speed wireless.
- Set up a "ghost" http server, a secure tunnel implementation for web access, when a satellite ISP began arbitrarily blocking outbound http traffic.
- Set up and installed Point of Sale systems using Microsoft RMS (retail management systems) software.
- Provided disk forensics, retrieving and archiving data from the machines of ex-employees.
- Set up a long distance wireless network (with the blessings of my isp) to serve my neighbor a half mile away while he was on the waiting list for high speed wireless
- Developed a fax server script that allows anyone on the WWW to submit a form via http to an OS X server, the server then faxes using it's local phone line.

- Performed detailed ACT! to sql data conversion.
- Developed a web based transportation brokerage dispatch system using unix, apache, mysql, php. Does automated load to equipment matching using geographical radius search techniques against a variety of historical and real time data. Web forms for order entry, etc.
- Performed email conversions from practically all local storage conventions into sql databases for high speed access to all organizational email
- Acquired domain names, set up web hosting, deployed sites as the WWW came into prominence, good working knowledge of ftp, ssh, smtp.
- Good knowledge of open source and the various licensing schemes/business models
- In December 2005, I passed the ACHDS 10.3 (Apple Certified Help Desk Specialist) test with perfect scores on the two sections "Network Configuration and Troubleshooting" 10 for 10, and "Troubleshooting" 4 for 4.
- In March 2008, I passed the Mac OS X 10.5 Server Essentials exam, in June the 10.5 Support Essentials exam, to obtain ACTC certification.
- "Apple Certified Technical Coordinator (ACTC) certification verifies a foundation in Mac OS X and Mac OS X Server core functionality and an ability to configure key services and perform basic troubleshooting of the essential Mac OS X and Mac OS X Server capabilities. The currently required exams are based on Mac OS X and Mac OS X Server v10.5." [More..](#)

The official description makes it sound like all Mac, but the testing covers the full range of client operating systems, as well as advanced tcp/ip networking, security, and user administration concepts.

[ACTC skills assessment - support](#) PDF

[ACTC skills assessment - server](#) PDF

Solid grasp of security issues.

- Bugtraq subscriber. I can understand the concepts of most of the postings unless they get heavy into C or java code.
- Familiar with tcpdump, nmap, snort, basic concepts of firewalls, basic concepts of tcp/ip, DNS, router configuration.
- Familiar with concepts of sql injection, http headers, smtp transfers, port scanning machines/networks, wiping hard disks.

Expert knowlege of local and SQL database development/information tranfer mechanisms.

- Database development starting with Paradox version 3, about the same era as windows for workgroups 3.11.
- Then Delphi (turbo pascal++) became the tool of choice as my knowledge and the needs of the company continued to grow. Delphi could handle sql databases (like Borland's own Interbase) which began my interest in sql development.
- Most recently, php has become the development language of choice. I run a licensed copy of the Zend Development Environment which I find invaluable not just for development, but for understanding the general quality of php-based open source development efforts.
- Basic understanding of EDI and XML and now YAML, particularly intrigued with data stamping, semantic web type applications and services.
- Good understanding of Mysql 4.xx + including relational database design, standard and non-standard SQL, database backup and replication, performance tuning.

Computer books I keep on my desk

SQL for Smarties

Essential System Administration

Creating Cool HTML4.0 web pages.

TCP/IP for Dummies

PHP Cookbook

Mysql Cookbook

Core PHP Programming

Essential Windows NT System Administration

FreeBSD Unleashed

Using Samba

Teach Yourself Samba in 24 hours

PHP and Mysql Web Development

Javascript in Easy Steps

Mac OS X - The Missing Manual