Todd Huss

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Introduction

A proven technology leader since 1999 as the CIO of Credit.com, CTO of Urbana Software, VP of Technology of GreatSchools, and CTO of Common Sense Media. Interested in engineering leadership positions that blend management and hands-on technical teamwork. Areas of expertise are:

1. Leading and growing engineering departments from a few people to multiple teams with over 20 people.
2. Leading software engineering with a focus on agile (Scrum) development with short time boxed sprints, sprint metrics, test driven development, planning poker estimation, and continuous integration.
3. Managing operations including monitoring, scalability, load testing, load balancing, disaster recovery, redundancy, fault tolerance, vendor contracts, and 24/7 support staff.

Hands-on

- Languages: Java, Ruby, and PHP (some Scala, Python, and Perl as well)
- MVC Frameworks: Spring MVC, Ruby on Rails, and CakePHP
- Testing: JUnit, HttpUnit, EasyMock, TestUnit, RSpec, Webrat, and Selenium
- Web: Prototype, JQuery, W3C validated XHTML, and CSS
- ORM's: JPA, Hibernate, ActiveRecord, and DataMapper
- Build: Maven, Ant, and Rake
- IDE's: Idea and RubyMine (some Netbeans, Eclipse, and TextMate too)
- Agile PM: Jira/Greenhopper, Pivotol Tracker, and Rally
- SCM: Git, Subversion, and CVS
- OS's: Linux, OS X, Windows 7
- DB's: MySQL with replication, PostgreSQL with Slony replication, and Oracle
- Hosting: Cloud hosting on Amazon (EC2/S3/Cloudfront/Autoscaling) and traditional Colo

Experience

VolunteerMatch, San Francisco, CA. Chief Technology Officer (September 2010 - present)

Sabbatical sailing San Francisco to Mexico to Hawaii and back (October 2007 – August 2010)
In 2007 my wife, daughter, and I sailed out the Golden Gate and spent half of each year on our boat sailing and the other half back home in San Francisco working. We sailed home in August 2010 and are back for good now. See http://sailsugata.com.

Common Sense Media, San Francisco, CA. Interim Chief Technology Officer
(July 2008 – Feb 2009, July 2009 – Feb 2010)

During hurricane season in Mexico we would haul-out our boat and come back to our home in San Francisco. Both times I was hired by Common Sense Media (a 40 person organization) as their interim CTO to lead their technology team. I was offered the full-time position but turned it down as it would have required cutting our 3 year sailing plans short. Before I departed in early 2010 I recruited and hired Vincent Rubino of Yahoo as their full-time CTO.

- Hired and led the 7 person engineering team (software engineering, QA, operations, and IT)
- Led implementation of partner cobrands/APIs with DirecTV, Comcast, Google, Fandango, and BestBuy
- Implemented Scrum with 3 week sprints, planning poker estimation, and Jira/Greenhopper for Agile PM
- Migrated hosting from Rackspace to Amazon EC2 with demand based auto-scaling saving $50k/yr
- Introduced automated testing and implemented Hudson as our continuous integration server
- Introduced Selenium cross-browser functional testing and integrated with Hudson
- Implemented Siege load testing and integrated with Hudson
- Carried out SEO analysis and implemented improvements resulting in 10% traffic growth
- Replaced search functionality with Solr/Lucene
- Introduced Rails migrations for schema management
- Implemented site monitoring and on-call rotation for the sysadmin team
- Hired Small Society (Raven Zachary's team) to work with our team to develop our iPhone app

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- Introduced weekly tech workshop where developers show off their code or teach new tech

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GreatSchools, San Francisco, CA. VP of Technology (2003 – October 2007)

Grew the technology team from 3 people in 2003 up to 20 in 2007 (12 full-time and 8 contractors) and grew traffic from 0.5M visitors/mo to 2.5M/mo. GreatSchools provides detailed PreK-12 school information to parents and licenses its data, API, and cobrand products to over 50 partners including Yahoo, Google, AOL, MSN, SFGate, and LA Times.

- Introduced Scrum with 2 week sprints, test driven development (JUnit/EasyMock/HttpUnit), continuous integration (CruiseControl), test coverage metrics (Clover), planning poker estimation, SCM and branching, and issue/project velocity tracking (Jira).
- Migrated the site from a legacy Perl environment into Java (Spring MVC, Spring IoC, Hibernate, Lucene, Maven, and JUnit) dramatically improving productivity and quality through maintainable and testable code.
- Applied Search Engine Optimization techniques and integrated SEO as part of the product dev process.
- Increased engineering productivity and focus on the core product by replacing homegrown systems with open-source and commercial systems including search (Lucene), advertising (Google Ad Manager), Metrics/Analytics (Omniture), and Email marketing (Exact Target).
- Expanded the co-located data center of 20 Linux and FreeBSD servers to reduce single points of failure through load balanced MySQL replicated slave servers, file servers, and routers.
- Implemented weekly and quarterly load testing and implemented multi location site monitoring.
- Conceived of our partner data feed and API product and wrote the initial versions which are now a big part of the partner revenue stream.

Urbana Software, San Francisco, CA. Chief Technology Officer (2000 - 2003)

Hired and led the technology team at Urbana Software developing the PerTest (Personalized Testing) Product Suite; an internationalized distributable Java EE based assessment and analysis engine and its front-end applications (Swing for Desktop and Struts for Web). Managed software engineering, QA, operations, and vendor relations:

- Introduced agile software development (XP), test driven development (JUnit), issue tracking (Bugzilla), and source control (CVS).
- Technologies included Linux, Java EE, JMS, JNDI, JMX, SOAP, XML, RMI, JUnit, Log4J, and Ant.
- Implemented Object Relational (OR) mapping layer with CocoBase to support multiple database platforms including Oracle, SQLServer, and PostgreSQL.
- Hired and managed the software engineering, operations, and QA teams.

Credit.com, San Francisco, CA. Chief Information Officer (1999 - 2000)

Hired and led the technology team at Credit.com: a startup (now profitable) focused on consumer financial services products:

- Rearchitected core Credit.com applications in Java with MVC and ORM (from legacy Perl code-base).
- Developed consumer mortgage, credit card, credit reporting, and credit monitoring systems.
- Developed a self-service affiliate system featuring reporting and monthly payment processing.
- Upgraded all datacenter hardware from Sun to more cost effective redundant Linux servers.

The Amber Group, San Mateo, CA. SAP Enterprise Systems Consultant/Manager (1998-99)
- PFC (Multinational manufacturing): As the technical team lead took PFC live on SAP.
- Siemens Automotive: As technical team lead developed Java interfaces from SAP to legacy systems.
- Designed and built the Amber Group's San Mateo SAP hosting facility.
- Worked with SAP on the first release of SAP on Linux.

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Price Waterhouse, Menlo Park, CA. SAP Enterprise Systems Consultant (1996 - 1998)
- Responsibilities included consulting to Price Waterhouse clients during all phases of SAP implementation including 3Com, Pepsi Cola, Lucent, Klabin (Brazil), and Fairway (Brazil).
- Supporting SAP R/3 Competency Center systems running Solaris, Digital Unix, AIX, HPUX, and NT with Oracle, Informix, and SQLServer.

IBM PowerPC, Essex Junction, VT. Systems Administrator and Applications Developer (1995-96)
- Developed client-server applications to manage and maintain 600 AIX servers and workstations.
- Unix, DB2, and TCP/IP network administration on AIX.

Universitaet Tuebingen, Germany, Systems Administrator and Web Developer (1994-95)
- Systems and database administration on Linux and HP/UX.
- Web development and C++ programming.

Northern Data Systems, Falmouth, ME. Enterprise Systems Developer (1993-1994)
- Writing enterprise payroll, medical, fuel/oil, water/sewer, and billing packages for government and large multinationals on AIX and AT&T Unix.

Law Offices of Kohler and Brown, Brunswick, ME. Consultant (1988-1991)
- Design and implementation of client database, legacy data-conversion, and telecommunications.

Side Projects

Windandtides (http://windandtides.com), Sole Developer (2006-present)
- Developed a Rails based website to download and parse weather data from NOAA for San Francisco. Site was written up in the August 2006 issue of the San Francisco sailing magazine Latitude 38.

Marine Wireless (http://marinewireless.us), Sole Developer (1993-present)
- Developed a Marine Wireless Navigation server to connect to ships instruments and rebroadcast the NMEA navigation data wirelessly. Based the device on Soekris embedded hardware and used an embedded Linux distribution. Built and designed the e-commerce website using osCommerce and Authorize.net.

Some very small projects
- Technical Blog http://gabrito.com
- Sailing Blog http://sailsugata.com
- Source code http://github.com/thuss
- My solution and subsequent interview for the 3rd Ruby Programming Challenge (Shortest Path Algo)

Education
- BS (Cum Laude), Computer Science, UVM, Burlington, Vermont.

Additional
- Born in Switzerland and fluent in German.
- Slide guitar and blues harmonica.
- Radio communications, FCC licensed (HAM) amateur radio operator.