

# Todd C. Huss

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## Introduction

With over 12 years of experience in enterprise financial systems, programming, systems/database administration, and a degree in Computer Science, I am a highly experienced and trained technologist with outstanding technical, interpersonal, and management skills. I have been a technology leader since 1999 as the CIO of Credit.com, CTO of Urbana Software, and presently as the VP of Technology at GreatSchools. My areas of expertise are:

1. Managing software engineering with a focus on agile estimation and planning, short time boxed iterations, test driven development, continuous integration, unit test coverage metrics, acceptance testing, and leveraging infrastructure software including MVC/ORM/IOC frameworks.
2. Managing operations including monitoring, scalability, load testing, load balancing, disaster recovery, redundancy, fault tolerance, vendor contracts, and 247 support staff.

## Technology

- Languages: Java, Ruby, Perl, PHP, and Shell scripting.
- Object Relational (OR) mapping: Hibernate and ActiveRecord.
- MVC Frameworks: Spring MVC, ActionPack, Struts, and Tapestry.
- Build Systems: Maven, Ant, and Rake.
- IDE's: Eclipse, IDEA, and RadRails.
- SCM: CVS and Subversion
- Operating Systems: Linux, FreeBSD, Mac OS X, and Windows 2003 Advanced Server.
- Databases: MySQL, PostgreSQL, Oracle, and SQLServer.

## Experience

### GreatSchools, VP of Technology (2003 - present)

Led the 12 person technology team at GreatSchools.net: a 40+ person company that averages 1M page views per day serving detailed school data to K-12 parents and licenses it's data to Yahoo, AOL, MSN, Google, SFGate, LA Times, and 80 other cobrand partners. During my time at GreatSchools I grew the technology team from a handful of inexperienced programmers to a highly effective and organized software engineering group. My accomplishments at GreatSchools include:

- Introduced agile development (XP), test driven development (JUnit and HttpUnit), continuous integration (CruiseControl), test coverage metrics (Clover), 3 week time boxed iterations, agile estimation and planning, SCM and branching, and issue tracking and project velocity (Jira).
- Initiated a rewrite of the site from Perl (FastTemplate/DBI) 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 increasing traffic by over 20% in my first year. Negotiated deals with our CFO with Yahoo paid submission and Google local to get featured placement of our content increasing traffic by another 10%.
- Increased engineering productivity and focus on the core product by discontinuing and outsourcing homegrown systems including advertising to 247 media, metrics to Omniture, and newsletters to GetActive.
- Expanded the co-located data center of 20 FreeBSD servers to reduce single points of failure through load balanced MySQL replicated slave servers and warm standby replicated file servers and routers. Implemented quarterly site load testing to measure capacity against demand, and implemented multi location site monitoring with Nagios. Annual uptime has always exceeded 99.9% under my watch.
- Implemented monthly staging database refreshes from production to regularly test offsite backups.
- Conceived of our XML data feed product and wrote the initial version of the feed generation software, which is now a six figure business that continues to grow.

### Urbana Software, Chief Technology Officer and Co-Founder (2000 - 2003)

Led the 5 person technology team at Urbana Software: a 10+ person startup (now profitable) developing the PerTest (Personalized Testing) Enterprise Product Suite; an internationalized distributable Java EE based assessment and analysis engine and its front-end (Swing and JSP based) applications. Managed software engineering, QA, operations, and vendor relations:

- Managed software engineering and architecture using agile software development (XP), test driven development (JUnit), design patterns (Gang of Four), documentation (JavaDoc and DocBook), issue tracking (Bugzilla), source control (CVS), and source metrics (Maven).

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- Architected and developed a portable and extendable enterprise class framework using Linux, Java, Java EE, JMS, JNDI, JMX, SOAP, XML, RMI, JUnit, Log4J, and Ant.
- Implemented Object Relational (OR) mapping layer with CocoBase to support multiple relational databases including Oracle, SQLServer, and PostgreSQL.
- Managed operations of Urbana Software including internal systems, network infrastructure, and co-located data-center (Linux and Windows 2k Advanced servers)
- Hired and managed the software engineering and operations teams.

## Credit.com, Chief Information Officer (1999 - 2000)

Led the 7 person technology team at Credit.com: a 10+ person startup (now profitable) focused on financial services products:

- Rearchitected core Credit.com applications in Java applying design patterns (ORM and MVC).
- Porting of the site from Perl to Java, JSP, taglibs, and OR Mapping for the production environment.
- Development of an OR Mapping layer very similar to JDO (before JDO was a standard).
- Ported from MySQL to a fault tolerant Oracle environment on Linux.
- Development of an affiliate network system featuring account creation, login, reporting and monthly payment system.
- Upgraded all datacenter hardware from Sun to more cost effective redundant Linux servers.
- Implemented enterprise backup and disaster recovery with Knox software and DLT jukeboxes.
- Managed data center and infrastructure including high availability Linux and Sun servers, load balancers, and networking infrastructure.
- Hired and managed the software engineering and operations teams.

## The Amber Group, Senior SAP Enterprise Systems Consultant/Manager (1998-99)

- Siemens Automotive: As technical team lead helped take Siemens live on SAP (financials and manufacturing modules) in a heterogeneous environment (AIX/NT and Oracle) and developed C and Java interfaces to legacy systems.
- PFC (Multinational manufacturing): As the technical team lead took PFC live on SAP (financials, manufacturing, and human resources modules) and coordinated parallel upgrades with the German office (HPUX and Informix platform).
- Customer outsourced enterprise systems: Designed and built the San Mateo datacenter facility and managed numerous outsourced customer systems on NT, Digital Unix, Solaris, HPUX, and Linux.
- Managing telephony infrastructure including voice over IP between Amber Group offices.
- Teaching SAP Basis classes to new hires and customers.
- Working with SAP on early releases of SAP on Linux.

## Price Waterhouse, 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.
- SAP Basis lead for SAP Electronic Commerce within Price Waterhouse.
- Teaching SAP R/3 architecture to the practices in Brazil and Mexico.

## IBM PowerPC, 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, Systems Administrator and Web Developer (1994-95)

- Systems and database administration on Linux and HP/UX.
- Web site development and C++ programming.

## Northern Data Systems, Falmouth, Maine, Enterprise Systems Developer (1993-1994)

- Writing enterprise systems 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, Consultant (1988-1991)

- Design and implementation of client database, legacy data-conversion, and telecommunications.

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## Entrepreneurial Side Projects

### WindandTides (<http://windandtides.com>), Founder and Sole Developer (2006-present)

- Developed a Ruby on Rails based website to download and parse the weather data from NOAA for San Francisco bay sailors, windsurfers, and kite-boarders. Primarily developed to meet my own needs as a sailor but also to test market the idea.
- Added Flickr integration by enhancing the Ruby based flickr.rb plugin, added RSS feeds using XML builder, and added WAP/WML mobile phone support.
- Site was written up in the August 2006 issue of the San Francisco sailing magazine Latitude 38.

### Marine Wireless (<http://marinewireless.us>), Founder and Sole Developer (1993-present)

- Developed a Marine Wireless Navigation server to connect to ships instruments and rebroadcast the NMEA navigation data wirelessly over a 128bit encrypted 802.11b transmitter enabling multiple PC's and handhelds to connect to the instruments from anywhere on the ship (e.g. bridge, flybridge, foredeck, owners cabin, etc...).
- Based the device on Soekris embedded hardware and used an embedded Linux distribution with Busybox http server and a small Java VM, all running in 32MB of RAM off of a compact flash card.
- Built and designed the e-commerce website using osCommerce and Authorize.net.

### LittleSix Consulting and Recruiting, Co-Founder and Lead Developer (1998-2002)

- Developed LAMP based automated web based recruiting software.
- Functionality included job and candidate search engine, login areas for candidates and companies, and backend administration functionality for LittleSix employees with extensive reporting.
- Managed co-located database and web servers.
- Grew the company to 5 employees with numerous clients and dozens of placements.

## Education

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

## Publications

### Technical Weblog

- <http://gabrito.com>

### SAP Technical Journal

- Understanding R/3 Memory Management (March 1999)  
<http://www.intelligenterp.com/columns/archive/r3adm1.shtml>
- Sending and Receiving Internet Mail with SAP R/3 (April 1999)  
<http://www.intelligenterp.com/columns/archive/r3adm4.shtml>

## Additional

- Born in Switzerland and fluent in German.
- Sailboat restoration, see: <http://gabrito.com/sugata>
- Slide guitar and blues harmonica.
- Radio communications, FCC licensed (HAM) amateur radio operator.