

Joel Worrall – Software Engineer / Executive / Consultant

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Project Engagements

World Vision & Messiah College – Technical Advisor and Architect

In the 2009 academic year, I served as one of the advisors and technical architects for the Messiah College partnership with World Vision on the development of tool for homecare aid worker volunteers with World Vision to collect real-time data on AID's patients and their families in remote portions of the world in which World Vision serves. The project's goal was to reduce the current 3-month lead time for data collection to an automated transfer and central collection of data from lost-cost mobile devices with no Internet connectivity.

I partnered with the sponsoring professors in selecting the technology stack, vetting the initial requirements, prototyping the original technology solution, standing up the development environment, teaching the students how to use the technology, and reviewing their work in by-weekly Sprint cycles.

The project was an overwhelming and surprising success and promises to extend into future iterations and extended requirements in the coming 2-3 years. With the first phase complete, discussion of a field test with World Vision in Zambia is being considered for Summer 2010.

Related Technologies: JavaRosa (JME open source Survey Framework), PHP, JME, MySQL

More Information: <http://www.mobileappdev.org>

Mzinga Inc. – VP of Engineering / Software Architect

I'm tasked with the technology roadmap planning, investor presentations, and engineering team management for all of Mzinga's product technology. All core product, custom implementations, and ongoing support are under my direct supervision.

I'm leading the effort within Mzinga's enterprise corporate learning business (LMS) to move from a traditional application service provider (ASP) hosted model to a true software as a service, multi-tenant, single instance application architecture. Primary drivers behind this move are the cost of service delivery and speed to market with new functionality, both of which I am tasked with dramatically improving. My role requires the merger of technical expertise, leadership skills, communication, and business analysis while I work with the entire organization (sales, services, engineering, support, and hosting) to shift not only the technical solution but also the business processes that surround it.

This effort coincides with Mzinga's move to integrate their recently acquired Social Media Platform (used by company's like Disney, ABC, FOX, and ESPN) with the Knowledgeplanet LMS to create a tool that merges formal content tracking and accounting with informal user-generated content tools. My role in this effort is to lead in the architecture, design and implementation of the integration with an eye towards future feature functionality and entirely new product offerings in the world of social business software.

Related Technologies: Java (Servlets, JSP, Taglibs, Logging, JDOM, JAXP), JSP, XML, XSL, HTML, CSS, Oracle 10g, Resin, CVS, Ant, Apache, Linux, Actuate 9.0, C#/.NET, SQL Server, Vault, EXT JS

Comcast Corporation – Senior Consulting Architect/Engineer

From May of 2002 to 2005, I consulted at Comcast in the High-Speed Internet Portal group. First, to building the initial framework of the portal on top of an iPlanet Portal Server 3.0 infrastructure and then to assist the then newly created engineering staff in rearchitecting the portal to a custom platform in Comcast's merger with AT&T Business Solutions. In May of 2003, I architected and built the completely custom, database-driven content management system used by the internal editorial staff in keeping <http://www.comcast.net> up to date with fresh information, videos, graphics and Flash movies. In continued development with Comcast, I served as a mentor to the Comcast employee engineers, training them to build components for both the portal and content management system. I built a XML request/response API and the web front end for the Comcast Refer-A-Friend program (<http://referafriend.comcast.net>). I also served as production support backup, on call 24x7 helping ensure that the content management system stayed functional for vital business processes of the editorial staff.

I worked and coded with multiple third party content / technology providers including iPlanet Support Engineering, AP News, Amazon, The Feedroom, G4, Screaming Media, the Jakarta Lucene project, and S & P Comstock using Java, HTTP, XML, and XSLT to provide highly accessible, available, efficient, and distributed content in a standards-based, flexible framework

Related Technologies: Java (Servlets, JSP, Taglibs, JMX, Logging, Spring, Hibernate, Struts, JDOM, JAXP), XML, HTML, CSS, Flash, MySQL, Postgres, Resin, CVS, Ant, Cruise Control, iPlanet Portal Server, iPlanet Webserver 6.0, Sun OS, OS X, Linux, Netscape LDAP

CommNav, Inc. – Senior Engineer, Lead Java Developer, Primary Portal Architect

For 3.5 years I served as the senior Java engineer and Java portal framework architect for CommNav. I led a team of Java developers building a flexible application development and portal framework 3 years before the advent of the Java Portlet Specification (JSR 168). The framework contained a custom XML-to-SQL database persistence layer that transparently implemented object-level security. The product was marketed to medium sized businesses as a remote application and productivity framework and was designed to scale horizontally, as well as support multiple portal implementations with separate data sources on the same physical hardware and webserver instance. This particular feature was marketed as "virtualization", and CommNav pursued and received a software patent for the intellectual property. The framework in its 2nd version was used to build multiple web-based database applications including document management, contact management, time reporting, expense reporting, dashboard configuration, email, a custom workflow engine, simple content management, and multi-level user and role-based security. I also designed and coded a Java API designed to allow Java applications to transparently interact with the company's older PHP-based portal framework. With the emergence of the Java Portlet standard, I served as CommNav's liaison and chief technical resource in reviewing and integrating their existing Java portal framework with JSR 168 as well as staying abreast of competing software feature sets. As lead developer, I represented CommNav at local and national developer conferences and authored a small number of white papers for the marketing and technical directors.

Related Technologies: Java (Servlets, JSP, JSTL, EJB, Taglibs, Java Logging, Apache Logging), XSL, XML, WebDAV, SMTP, PHP, Oracle, MySQL, Postgres, Netscape LDAP, JUnit, JMeter

XIF, Inc. – Technical Consult, Interim Engineering Manager, Lead Engineer

In 2005, XIF began to grow the professional services division of their organization. January 2005, I was called into XIF to fill multiple roles. First, I served as the chief technical liaison for the professional services group. I built documentation for technical designs and customer proposals. XIF was filling their programming needs through contract work, and I acted as the engineering manager of disparate projects, tracking and reviewing designs and code of other contractors, providing oversight and technical mentoring to the other contractors. Finally, I served as a technical consultant and head-hunter, helping to hire multiple technical positions within XIF including the following: senior project manager, senior engineer, VP of Technology. In June 2005, I built a reporting module for an XIF client project. The company engaged was the FUEL food service organization, and the requirements included the daily auto-generation of meal labels for the needed customers. The application utilizes MySQL and Servlets, along with the Jakarta POI API to generate MS Excel Worksheets that were combined with an MS Word mail merge to output printable labels.

Related Technologies: Java (Servlets, JSP, JSTL, JDBC), HTML, CSS, Flash, UML, MySQL, Jakarta POI, Perl, Shell Scripting, Unix, Linux, CVS, Cruise Control

Knowledge Planet – Customization Engineer

Knowledge Planet builds an enterprise-class Learning and Classroom Management System. With deployments throughout fortune 1000 companies, they receive multiple customization requests to their massive, robust, mature, core product. As a former employee and expert in portal technology, I was brought in on a regular basis to implement and deploy customer alternations to the core product. Having served on their engineering staff in 1999, I was contracted for my skill set as well as my knowledge of the product and its Oracle schema, containing over 400 tables and tens of millions of rows of data.

Related Technologies: Oracle 9i & 10g, Java (Servlets, JSP, Taglibs, Maverick, Apache Logging, JDBC), XSL, XML, SQL, CVS

West Shore Evangelical Free Church – Website Solution

Worked with West Shore Evangelical Free church on the first version of their new web presence, bringing together different content groups from within the church, outside graphic designer resources, and the church administration to define, implement, and user acceptance test their web presence. The project involved integrating a heavy graphic design with user personalization and content management functionality. Multiple levels of requirements gathering and specification definition were needed, as well as significant project and consultant management.

Related Technologies: Java (Servlets, JSP, Taglib, JSTL), Javascript, MySQL, Graphic design and UML Modeling tools, XML

Pennsylvania Medical Society – Web Programming Consultant

Authored several web-based, database-driven applications for their members services including a job posting, web page manager (simple content management), and website design. I was also involved in a redesign and port of a sub-portion of the members database for a Visual Basic internal application

Related Technologies: Cold Fusion, HTML, Javascript, Oracle, Ms Access, Visual Basic