

JAMES CATES

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PROFESSIONAL VALUE SUMMARY

I bring almost 20 years of professional IT consulting experience to the table. I've spent the last 14 years of my career performing business analysis resulting in architecture recommendations and development activities using Microsoft technologies for large clients like Dow Jones, Merrill Lynch, US Web/CKS and more recently to the marketplace in central Pennsylvania with Pavone Advertising's clients, Tyco and the Commonwealth of PA. I achieved a Bachelors degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design in Illustration in 1990. My clients often benefit from my artistic ability coupled with technical savvy.

My .NET technical skills are solid and current (1.1 to 3.5). I am adept in Agile methods and Test-driven development practices. I've been involved in all phases of Full Life Cycle Development processes and can lead efforts of large or small teams effectively. I understand and value the importance of accepted project management tools and methods. I have experience in Section 508 Compliance - important to State and Federal agencies. I am comfortable and experienced working with diverse groups: users, technical professionals, managers, and financial/administrative business leaders.

I am more interested in solving problems than implementing a particular fashionable technology. I respect foundation and proven software development practices. I bring knowledge from large, enterprise projects with diverse client bases. I prefer simplicity over complexity and value prudence when adopting new technologies. I believe that my technical experience and leadership capabilities will be an asset to any organization.

TECHNOLOGY EXPERIENCE

Specialties:

- Agile Methods
- Test-driven Development
- Full Life Cycle Development
- Technical Team Lead and Project Management
- Section 508 Compliance

Proficient Skills:

- Microsoft .Net (1.1 to 3.5)
- ASP.Net
- C#, Visual BASIC.Net
- Winforms, WPF, Silverlight
- Javascript/jQuery
- CSS
- XML
- SQL
 - MS SQL Server and SSRS (and Sybase)
 - Oracle PL/SQL
 - MySQL
- Agile Methods
 - TDD/FDD/BDD
 - SCRUM
 - Extreme and Pair programming
- Model-view-controller patterns

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Web Developer

Pavone Advertising – Harrisburg, PA
April 2009 – September 2009

I manage and lead a small team of developers building public, commercial web sites and applications for a variety of Pavone clients, including: Turkey Hill Dairies, Excel Modular Homes, Hershey Foods, Utz Quality Foods, General Electric, The Pennsylvania College of Art & Design, and more. The technologies employed include: ASP.Net 3.5 with LINQ and MS SQL Server 2008, Wordpress as a blog and general CMS engine, jQuery in combination with ASP.Net 3.5 and AJAX, DotNetNuke, ASPDotNetStoreFront, and a great deal of Flash (often driven by .Net using XML files or parameters).

At Pavone, I have been able to utilize my design training and implement well-crafted User Interface designs, often leveraging jQuery and AJAX quite heavily to produce a more friendly User Experience.

One recent example can be found at: <http://excel.thinkitso.com/ModelBrowser/launch.htm> (select Ranch homes) – this application will showcase the different models Excel Homes offer to customers through their custom builder network. It has not yet been deployed into production. Ultimately, the application will be launched from within <http://www.excelhomes.com/>

Consultant

AllSearch Professional Staffing, Inc. – Hunt Valley, MD
August 2008 – February 2009

I worked on several web-based Global Positioning System projects for Gannett Fleming in Camp Hill, PA. I used Microsoft ASP.Net 3.5 using LINQ and Oracle.

Consultant

TEK Systems, Inc. – Harrisburg, PA
January 2008 – August 2008

I joined a team at a Tyco Electronics where I developed an Analysis Library feature within their web-based pricing management system.

I built a system using ASP.Net 2.0 C#, Oracle PL/SQL procedures, and .Net libraries written in C#, through which future developers could easily add new searches and reports to the Analysis Library using a simple architecture with search criteria, and display grid user controls. The client specified the use of the Infragistics suite of ASP.Net grid, export, form controls, and AJAX refresh panel.

Consultant

TEK Systems, Inc. – Harrisburg, PA
February 2007 – December 2007

I was involved in the development of a Benefits Invoicing system for a major Benefits Consulting firm. I built the system using MS .Net 3.5, LINQ, and MS SQL Server 2005. RSS Feeds were provided to the member groups (benefits groups) so that they could easily track benefits changes and system updates. Invoices were available both as automated email tasks and PDF (formatted envelopes and invoices) or XML (actual data) download of the invoicing data.

Consultant Software Engineer

Veridyne, Inc. – Camp Hill, PA
September 2006 – February 2007

The project team of which I was the technical lead rebuilt an application used by the State of PA to manage and report on Public Works projects. The existing application was developed using FoxPro many years ago and is very dated and limited. The new application was developed using ASP.Net 2.0, MS SQL Server 2005, and MS SQL Server Reporting Services. I created the user interface (UI), along with the business and data layers of the new application.

Consultant

Computer Resource Team/Portfolio Recovery Services – Norfolk, VA
April 2006 – August 2006

Working for [Computer Resource Team](#), I served as a Senior Software Developer at Portfolio. I worked on a new system for their Bankruptcy department. I utilized .Net using C# and agile methods (Test-driven Development). I used NUnit to facilitate TDD within Visual Studio 2005.

Consultant

Proxity EC (Privately Held) - Virginia Beach, VA
November 2005 – February 2006
Information Technology and Services Industry

This was a startup in an existing industry: providing logistics, purchasing, bidding, and complete support to buyers and sellers doing business with US and other (NATO) Governments. Services are provided via a portal-like platform containing tools for logistics searching, bid matching, solicitation notifications, and standards document searching/purchasing.

The system, Parts Professional, allows subscribing Government and Commercial buyers and sellers to match parts with requirements by private and public organizations, along with direct access to published solicitations and associated Government specification documents (MIL SPECS) and commercial standards, such as ASTM and ASME standards pertaining to the part or assembly. Parts and NSN information is acquired from many DOD entity logistics databases and linked together at the NIIN, FSC, and Part level. In addition, supporting DOD and society (ASTM, ASME, etc.) specifications and standards documents are linked to the part and NSN records wherever possible.

Parts Professional was built using .Net 2.0, utilizing VB.Net and MS SQL Server 2005. Certain middle ware components were delivered in Java in order to more seamlessly integrate with a partner's systems.

While building the system I sourced the DLA FLIS data and other key databases in DVD or CDROM format rather than the expensive, outdated, and cumbersome 9 track format all our competitors used. We used a third-party COTS tool, which specialized in data conversion from EBCDIC and created scripts for it to yield clean CSV and XML from the EBCDIC FLIS data. The XML, in turn, was easily imported into MS SQL Server and ready for use by our system. FLIS and other DOD logistics data was refreshed automatically on a regular basis from the source feeds, some weekly, others daily, and a few only monthly or quarterly.

Senior Software Engineer

USA Information Systems/IHS, Inc. - Virginia Beach, VA
January 2001 – October 2005

I developed new parts/supplier and specs and standards related features and products, while managing daily production programming as well.

In the USAInfo and Haystack Gold product Parts and NSN information is acquired from many DOD entity logistics databases and linked together at the NIIN, FSC, and Part level. In addition, supporting DOD and society (ASTM, ASME, etc.) specifications and standards documents are linked to the part and NSN records wherever possible.

During the last part of 2004 and beginning of 2005, I developed the newest iteration of IHS' parts and supplier search product offering, Haystack Gold. The product was in the hands of real customers (Beta) in 90 days.

I developed both the USAInfo and Haystack Gold products in Classic ASP with custom COM components written in VB6 and MS VC++. The data was stored in and delivered by MS SQL Server 2000.

<http://aero-defense.ihs.com/products/procurement/haystack-logistics/index.htm>

Senior Software Engineer

B.C. Harris Publishing – Norfolk, VA
2000-2001

At Harris, I led the re-tooling of a VAX-based batch processing system into a Windows DNA three-tier model using DCOM, J++, and Visual BASIC with a front end built using Active Server Pages and Visual BASIC COM. In addition, I created a client-server Windows Forms executable version of the processing application. I also led the development of a parallel version of the system using Java: JSP, Beans, Servlets, and J2EE. The system accepted association member data in various formats, validates it, transforms it to the correct internal format, and warehouses the data in Oracle for client use.

<http://www.bcharrispub.com>

Technical Solutions Manager

Metro Information Services – Virginia Beach, VA
2000

I served as a liaison between the corporate offices (CTO) of this Technology Consulting firm and the field branches. I traveling extensively to the branches and aided them in staffing solutions, producing proposals to clients, and often took part in potential client meetings in a technical sales support role. My charter was to aid the branch offices in developing eCommerce business knowledge and in acquiring eCommerce solution contracts. My role was to provide this service to all branches needing Internet solutions expertise. I guided the branch office staff in delivering eCommerce solutions utilizing a storefront/cart system I developed using Active Server Pages, DHTML, CSS, and MS SQL Server.

Director of Internet Services

Intelligent Automation, Inc. – Rockville, MD
1998-1999

I served as manager and chief architect of all Internet projects.

I was responsible for resource management, staffing, budgeting, and project management within my department. At times, I served as a sole technical liaison to special clients, such as American Airlines.

During my tenure, my department landed and developed dozens of Internet project commissions. Our clients included: American Airlines, The University of Maryland, and the U.S. Dept. of Transportation.

All products and solutions were developed using Active Server Pages and MS SQL Server utilizing a custom Content Management System to enable the clients to easily edit their own web site content. <http://www.i-a-i.com>

Senior Architect

USWeb/CKS (MarchFIRST) - Bethesda, MD
1997-1998

I served as an Internet solutions architect and was the project lead on most large-scale ecommerce and financial sites. In that capacity, I typically led teams of up to 8 developers and designers through completion of the projects.

At USWeb/CKS I led the development of several high-profile E-Commerce websites, such as: VarsityBooks.com, MotherNature.com, Furniture.com, and Dsports.com. Most of the sites I developed utilized a Microsoft Windows DNA n-tier architecture. I deployed E-Commerce functionality using MS Site Server Commerce, Interworld Commerce Exchange, and Broadvision.

Consultant/Senior Web Developer

Merrill Lynch – Princeton, NJ
1995-1997

I was the lead developer on several Extranet projects. and helped to develop and define departmental and corporate web standards, and web strategies. I was a member of several project teams, developing various systems using Windows DNA architecture utilizing Visual BASIC, Active Server Pages, COM, client-side Active-X, and DHTML.

Internet Testing Analyst

Dow Jones & Co – Princeton, NJ
1995

I was brought in to create testing procedures for Dow Jones internet-based products. I led testing plan development and execution for prior to and after the launch of wsj.com (The Wall Street Journal website).

I designed and ran a 12 machine testing lab specifically for Internet-based products utilizing a Windows NT Server and clients of all flavors.

EDUCATION

The Savannah College of Art and Design – Savannah, GA
BFA, Illustration 1990

REFERENCES

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