Michael "Shep" Shapard

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Objective

To fulfill a ((software (engineer|manager))|(technical (product|project) manager)) role in a dedicated and inspired team/company whose doing innovative things to make the world a better place.

More specifically, to work in a company/department/team that:
1. Follows modern/cutting-edge software development practices as proven applicable.
2. Uses modern/cutting-edge languages/frameworks/technologies as proven applicable.
3. Where product goals are well-focused, well-founded, and well-communicated, and where product ideation is open to everyone
4. Where product quality is more important than deadlines.
5. Where each individual's drive is born out of passion for the product and not career achievement/advancement.
6. Where team roles define responsibilities and not subject matter expertise (A designer's role is to design. That doesn't mean their design ideas (or designs) are better than those of anyone else. A director of product's role is to orchestrate the various aspects of creating and maintaining products. That doesn't mean a designer's product ideas aren't as good as a director of product's).

Personal Description

Passionate, flexible, conscientious, affable software engineer with 10 years of full life cycle development experience. Excellent track record of creating quality solutions that meet client and company needs. Proven ability to adapt to new technologies and company changes. Proven ability to fulfill role expectations while dipping into other roles as necessary or desired (design, product/project management, analytics). Proven natural (and humble) leadership skills.

Programming Language and Technology Proficiencies

Proficient: Java, Android, Git, JSON
Intermediate: Dart, Web Components, Polymer, CSS, JavaScript, XML, Eclipse IDE, Subversion, PHP, SQL, Flash/ActionScript 3
Novice: C#, Ruby on Rails, jQuery, iOS, Apache, DNS, Pascal, ML, Prolog

Professional Experience

Owner/Founder 2/2014 – Present
AreSimple – Arlington, VA (http://www.aresimple.com)

Company Description: AreSimple is a software development company that makes client applications that are both powerful and simple. The company's first product is a "Weather by AreSimple": a weather app for Android that allows users to see the weather data they want for the exact time range that the want it.
(https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.aresimple.android.weather)

Responsibilities: Conceptualize, design, architect, develop, test, manage releases of, and market Android mobile applications.

Technologies Used: Android SDK / Java SE / Android Studio / Git / Gradle / Various Android Tools

Lead Android Developer, 9/2013 – 2/2014
Homesnap – Washington, DC (http://www.homesnap.com/)

Company Description: Homesnap is a real estate tech start-up that creates innovative web and mobile solutions that enables buyers to find the their next home and enables agents to better serve their clients.

Responsibilities: Architect, develop, test, and manage releases of Android mobile applications. Assist product/project management and design as an Android subject matter expert.

Technologies Used: Android SDK / Java SE / ADT Eclipse Plugin / Git / Various Android Tools

Senior Mobile Solutions Developer, 3/2011 – 9/2013
Gannett Company – Mclean, VA (http://www.gannett.com/)

Company Description: Gannett is the largest U.S. newspaper publisher and owner of numerous newspaper publisher, broadcast stations, and internet properties including USA Today.

Responsibilities: Architect, develop, test, and manage releases of Android mobile applications. Provide leadership/mentoring to team members, assist product management and design as an Android subject matter expert, and step into any other roles as necessary to support the success of the department (occasional web development and project management strategy ideation, for example).

Technologies Used: Android SDK / Java SE / HTML / CSS / JavaScript / SQL / Eclipse / Subversion / Git / C#

Select Projects and Accomplishments:

- USA Today for Android:
  - Stage 1 (Kindle Fire): Served as co-lead on a small team who developed this highly successful app under a tight deadline. As of July 21, 2013, the app has been downloaded over 1 million times, has a rating of 4.3 out of 5 after 1,132

reviews, and is ranked #1 in the Amazon Appstore's US News & Magazines category. (http://amzn.to/zFAQEI)

- ○ Stage 2 (Android Phone/Tablet 2.0): Served as co-lead on a small team who enhanced the Kindle Fire application to run seamlessly on almost all Android phones and tablets (one binary is compatible with over 2,000 devices). As of July 21, 2013, according to the Google Play Store, the app has over 1 million active installations, a rating of 4.3 out of 5 after 23,047 reviews, and is ranked 4th in Google Play's "Top Free in News & Magazines" category (behind CNN, Flipboard, and Fox News).
(https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.usatoday.android.news)

- Modal Video Player for USAToday.com Homepage: With help from a couple of colleagues (for integration into front end system), I built the modal video player that is frequently displayed on the USA Today homepage using jQuery, jQuery Tools and JavaScript. (http://www.usatoday.com)

Consultant, 1/2011 – 2/2011
Captech Consulting – Richmond, VA (http://www.captechconsulting.com)

Company Description: Captech Consulting is a Richmond based IT consulting company that focuses on systems integration, management consulting, and data management.

Note: My stay at Captech Consulting was regrettably short due to an unforeseen relocation of my girlfriend (of 10 years) to northern Virginia.

Web Development Contractor, 2/2009 – 1/2011
Self-Employed – Richmond, VA

Company Description: As a freelance web developer, I helped various companies in the Richmond area fulfill their clients' needs on a project to project basis.

Responsibilities: Development of client-side and server-side web applications, focusing in Flash/ActionScript 3 and LAMP (PHP and MySQL) development. Participate in full cycle, agile development process. Design and develop custom solutions to other client needs outside normal areas of expertise.

Technologies Used: CSS / JavaScript / PHP / MySQL / Flash / ActionScript 3 / Eclipse / FDT

Select Projects and Accomplishments:

- MyAliStory.com: Collaborated with a 4 person team who built MyAliStory.com, an interactive Flash application that allows users to share their stories about how Muhammad Ali inspired them. (http://www.myalistory.com/)

- TomBrady.com: Collaborated with a 4 person team to build TomBrady.com, NFL quarterback Tom Brady's main web presence. Built with Flash/ActionScript 3. (http://www.tombrady.com/)

Founder and Lead Developer, 2/2008 – 2/2009
GYLo – Richmond, VA (http://www.hellogylo.com/)

Company Description: Founded by myself and my business partner, GYLo was principally a web development company that mainly serves clients in the Richmond, VA area.

Responsibilities: Design and develop client-side and server-side web systems, focusing on Flash and ActionScript 3 development with LAMP (PHP and MySQL) back ends. Participate in all aspects of agile development cycle. Collaborate with clients and designers to convert design and animation comps into functional websites. Design and develop custom solutions to other client needs outside normal area of expertise. Participate in business development, finances, strategy, and planning.

Technologies Used: CSS / JavaScript / PHP / MySQL / Flash / ActionScript 3 / Eclipse / FDT

Selected Projects and Accomplishments:

- TheBorderTown.com: Developed a Flash site for a full-length movie to serve as its main marketing tool for promotion to distributors. Winner of the Adobe Site of the Day award on November 24, 2008. Received a Gold award from the Richmond Ad Club in the 2008 Richmond Show for best interactive piece under $20K. (http://www.thebordertown.com/)

- Volume.ms: Developed a Flash site for Volume, a sound design and music composition company, to serve as the company's web presence. Developed a PHP/MySQL based CMS that allows for the management of audio files and video files, as well as a file management system for client file sharing. (http://www.volume.ms/)

Lead Developer, 8/2004 – 2/2008
Statistics.com – Arlington, VA (http://www.statistics.com/)

Company Description: Statistics.com is a web based company that is the leading provider of online courses in statistics and also offers various other statistics related services.

Responsibilities: Develop, maintain, and update company's various websites and proprietary online virtual classroom. Assess and develop solutions for company's technical and web functionality.

Technologies Used: CSS / JavaScript / PHP / MySQL

Selected Projects and Accomplishments:

- Statistics.com website: Spearheaded the decision to rebuild, and single handedly rebuilt, the company's website to incorporate a comprehensive content management system.
    - As compared to the 6 months prior to the launch of the new website, sales were up 63% during the 6 months after the new website launched.

- Proprietary virtual classroom: Made many complex improvements to the company's flagship proprietary virtual classroom and was responsible for the system as a whole.

Portfolio: http://www.shepshapard.com/development/projects/

Education and Training

iOS (iPhone/iPad) Training, 2011, Big Nerd Ranch

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Computer Science, 2010, Virginia Commonwealth University, GPA: 4.0

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, 2004, University of Mary Washington, GPA: 3.2

Additional (informal) Information

- Music: I am an avid indie rock musician and I love all aspects of playing music from playing shows, recording, mixing, mastering, practicing… I love it all. Since 2004, I have played in a variety of bands and have been lucky enough to open for the Juliana Theory, mewithoutYou, and Travis Morrison. One of the things I'm most proud of musically is the 10 song album I wrote and recorded by myself for my own personal project, The Shep Shapard Project. I also participated in RPM (Record Production Month) 2010 and a friend and I wrote and recorded an entire album in a month! You can listen to all of the things I've been involved in recording here:
  http://www.shepshapard.com/music/lde/

- Other: Aside from software product development and music, I am also a big fan of video games, board games, Ultimate (sport played with flying discs, i.e. Frisbees), and disc golf.