

Mike Burns

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Technology Skills

Languages Bourne Shell, Java, JavaScript, Haskell, PHP, Perl, Python, Ruby, Scheme, XSLT.

APIs AJAX, Facebook, GTK, Maps (Google, Yahoo!, Microsoft Live), REST, RSpec, SOAP, YUI.

Software Apache, CVS, FreeBSD, GNU/Linux, Mongrel, PF, Rails, Screen, Subversion, Vim.

Formats Atom, CSS, DOM, Glade, iCal, L^AT_EX, microformats, HTTP, RSS, vCard, XHTML, XML.

Work Experience

Programmer
Boston, MA

LandBrokr
October 2005 - October 2007

- Developed an integrated blogging, calendaring, listing, discussion, and messaging Web site.
- Created the first real estate listing application for Facebook with over 300 users overnight.
- Released parts of the system as documented, tested plugins for Ruby on Rails.
- Embedded maps with icons dynamically populated from the database of property listings.
- Generalized map embedding to easily switch between Yahoo!, Google, and Microsoft maps.
- Syndicated data from other Web sites via RSS and Atom using a custom feed parser.
- Collected and presented data programmatically from other Web sites via SOAP and REST.
- Used JavaScript to unobtrusively add inline spell checking, incremental data loading, and page optimizations.

Programmer
Boston, MA

Nuvella LLC
September 2005 - October 2007

- Developed clients' dreams into full Web sites with a business plan and userbase.
- Maintained multiple Web sites, varying from simple XHTML to database-backed.
- Managed and recommended Web servers appropriate for the clients' needs.
- Maintained legacy systems using PHP and MySQL while developing their replacement.

Technical Writer and Maintenance Programmer
Boston, MA

Programming Languages Team
September 2004 - January 2005

- Documented the continuation-based Web server, including tutorials on writing servlets.
- Developed a test harness for servlets similar to Rails' current functional test harness.
- Demonstrated work-arounds for threading problems related to using a database in a servlet.

Programmer
Chelsea, MA

Reliance Technology Inc
1997 - 2002

- Wrote and maintained the company's Web site, including user accounts and data storage.
- Developed St. Lawrence University's class registration Web site atop their mainframes.

Relevant Activities

Teacher
Boston, MA

Compass Computer Camps
Summer 2004, 2005, and 2006

- Created and taught a curriculum to teach high school students introductory programming.
- Trained assistant teachers in the curriculum and Socratic teaching method.

Teacher
Cambridge, MA

MIT High School Studies Program
Weekends 2001 - 2004

- Created the curriculum for and taught the following classes to high school students:
Introduction to BSD, Introduction to Databases, Introduction to Perl (cotaught), Advanced Perl, What's Cool About Computer Science (cotaught).

Released Projects

Observer

An implementation of the observer pattern in the domain of URLs as a REST Web service. A callback is registered against a URL; the observer server polls the URL; when the URL's contents change the callback is called. A non-polling option is also available.

spider

The Ruby library for crawling the Web. A simple API that scrapes links, handles `robots.txt`, and avoids cycles. Currently being extended to a simple DSL. Used as the base for a Rail plugin in development by a third party.

response_from

A Rails plugin that provides the opposite of `responds_to`. Consumes XML as generated by `ActiveRecord#to_xml` and produces an ActiveRecord object. Used in production Web sites and eventually subsumed by Rails itself.

Other Projets

Dumpster (Web site), `Integer#to_word` (Ruby library), `py-xexpr` (Python library), `mail2rss` (program and PLT Scheme library), `mail-parse` (PLT Scheme library), `RSS` (PLT Scheme library).

Interests

Midnight cycling, rock band photography.