

Joe Winter

27 East Zane Avenue • Collingswood, NJ 08108

jwinter@jwinter.org • (617) 331-0787

<http://jwinter.org/resume/>

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Was Employee #2 at HiveFire, a start-up building a news aggregation Web application with Natural Language Processing, Information Retrieval, and Machine Learning components
- Built, managed, and maintained applications through several major versions
- Led project teams in developing Web applications

SKILLS

Languages: Ruby, JavaScript, Python, PHP, Clojure, Perl, Java, Scheme

Web Development: Django, Ruby on Rails, JavaScript libraries (jQuery, ExtJS, YUI), X/HTML, CSS, DOM, RSS and Atom

System Administration: Linux, MySQL, Apache, Mongrel, Sphinx (similar to Solr/Lucene), Memcached, PostgreSQL

Development Tools: Subversion, Git, Firebug, httpperf, Trac, Bugzilla, gdb

EXPERIENCE

Programmer, Telvue Corporation, Mount Laurel, NJ, October 2008-Present

Telvue makes digital video servers to run television stations. I worked on the Ruby on Rails web application used to schedule and configure the servers, as well as the Red Hat Linux infrastructure used to run the both the web application and our video server.

- Reduced the application's memory footprint by over 50% through a new web application and background job infrastructure.
- Wrote several new features for the Web application including firewall configuration, support for new import/export formats, and a new user interface to bulk schedule programs.
- Created an automated build system for our servers, with a nightly build that installs Red Hat Linux on our servers, installs and configures our software, and runs integration tests.
- Played a key role in improving our Agile Scrum process by shortening our iterations, using Continuous Integration to maintain running software, and providing meaningful retrospectives after each iteration.
- Wrote software that allows users to plug a small USB-powered LCD into our server to show server information.
- Wrote and fixed many unit tests using Mocha and Test::Unit.
- Built tools to manage our QA servers, including a Web application that reports on the health of those servers.
- Interviewed potential candidates for engineering positions.

Software Engineer, HiveFire Inc., Cambridge MA, July 2007-October 2008

Built tools to automatically generate and manually maintain news websites.

Sample Sites: <http://www.avashya.com/>, <http://haskell.hivefire.com/>, <http://octnews.hivefire.com/>

HiveFire's software crawls news on the Web; runs entity recognition to identify important people, places, and organizations; auto-classifies articles into given categories; and ranks and clusters the articles according to relevance and importance. The sites are built with Python and Django using MySQL as the primary datastore and Sphinx as a full text index.

- Wrote about half of the Python/Django code that runs both the public news websites and the Web application used to build and maintain HiveFire's sites
- Designed and built browser-based drag and drop site component customization
- Designed and built data access layer for site front end from MySQL and Sphinx search index
- Built responsive Ajax-based editing for articles, categories and entities using jQuery
- Built threaded comment system with the ability to cite an arbitrary number of articles or entities
- Designed and built REST interface for filtering articles and aggregating statistics across them
- Initiated unit testing and regression testing; worked with the team to build a lightweight process for nightly regression tests
- Added multiple database support into our build of Django

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- Measured performance with httpperf and custom scripts; used those statistics to cut our response times in half
 - Built Apache/mod_wsgi environment for our production web server, as well as development environments for our team
 - Identified the user tasks, prototyped each screen, iterated through prototypes, ran simple user testing on the prototypes and implemented in HTML and CSS for our site building tools
 - Integrated database performance statistics into the development version of our application, then used those statistics to reduce our database usage by sixty percent

Software Engineer, Lycos, Inc., Waltham, MA, April-July 2007

Worked on Lycos Cinema, <http://cinema.lycos.com/>, their Flash movie chat application

- Built new social networking features into Lycos Cinema so users could add friends and block jerks in both the Lycos Cinema website and in their Flash video client
- Built and launched new video rating system, including a new JavaScript rating widget
- Researched, evaluated, and chose a JavaScript Framework from among jQuery, Prototype, mooTools, ExtJS, dojo, and YUI
- Integrated online presence detection into the Cinema web site

Analyst/Consultant II, Office of Information Technology, Boston University, Boston, MA, October 2001-March 2007

- Programmed applications used to manage and serve some of the highest trafficked sites on www.bu.edu (with upwards of two million page views per month)
- Built News Manager Web application used to manage tens of thousands of stories from BU's highest profile sites including BU Athletics, the School of Management, and BU's daily newspaper
 - Included hierarchical categorization (could easily publish any subtree and/or exclude any set of subtrees in the categories), search, workflow management, flexible layouts, mailing list integration, optional static file publishing to integrate with existing sites
- Built Content Management System and front-end (including mailing list, video search, and RSS) for BU's online Flash video archive, BUuniverse
- Built and maintained a Python/Django-based Web application to manage sleep studies for the Biology department
- Managed projects from conception through several major versions working directly with clients to gather requirements
- Supervised and mentored 3-4 student employees each semester
- Organized monthly brown-bag technical talks among BU web developers
- Created and taught tutorials in web development (including sites for all of the course materials)
- Maintained and updated Web applications that have been running over five years

EDUCATION

M.A., Computer Science, Boston University

B.S., Film and Television, Political Science Minor, Boston University