

Mike Brittain

Architect / Application Developer

Mike Brittain
351 E. 84th St Apt 30A
New York, NY 10028
T (917) 326-0012
F (347) 710-2697
mike@mikebrittain.com
<http://www.mikebrittain.com>

Profile

Results-oriented lead architect with a focus on delivering high-quality code and products in high-traffic environments. Enthusiastic about mobile applications. Proven leadership ability; capable of keeping a team focused on the tasks at hand while maintaining a view of high-level goals. Solves immediate crises with solutions that will fit for the long-term.

Twelve years of experience in web development (hands-on), specialized in LAMP technologies and mobile applications. Experienced in a variety of aspects of application development, including: database design, server administration, web services, user interface, cloud computing, security, e-commerce, and quality assurance.

Technical Skills

PHP, MySQL, Apache, Linux, Perl, JavaScript, SQL, HTML, XHTML, CSS, XML, XML-RPC, REST, Ajax, Amazon Web Services (EC2, S3, SQS), Puppet, Munin, Nagios, Subversion (SVN), CVS, mobile web applications, regular expressions, memcached, load testing tools, Bugzilla, Smarty templates, CDNs and reverse proxies, SEO, web analytics.

Prior experience with C, C++, Flash, ActionScript, XSLT, Oracle, Access, and ColdFusion.

Experience

Architect, Engineering, CafeMom.com; New York, NY – July 2008-Present.

Manage architecture and application development for a social network of 1.5 million unique visitors per month. Aid developers in all points of front-end and back-end development.

- Built a file storage service with near real-time replication using Amazon's EC2, S3, and SQS services; currently migrating 4 million images over to this service.
- Hands-on feature development using PHP, MySQL, HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.
- Write custom tools for automated code deployment.
- Migrated to a new CDN vendor, including vendor selection and contract negotiation.
- Refactored CSS across entire site improving page render speed by 30%.
- Administer 10 Apache servers (physical and cloud-based).
- Administer Subversion server for 15 users and implemented branching.
- Wrote SQS class which is now distributed in PEAR (Services_Amazon_SQS).
- Installed monitoring for production servers using Munin and Nagios.

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Founder, One tsp.; New York, NY — Jan 2008-Present.

Building an early-stage recipe organizer that is available via web and mobile phones.

- Hands-on development in PHP, MySQL, HTML, JavaScript (jQuery), and CSS.
- Manage testing within various mobile phone browsers, including Blackberry, iPhone, Android, Palm WebOS, and Symbian.

Architect, Engineering, Heavy.com; New York, NY — Sept 2007-July 2008.

Director of Engineering, Heavy.com; New York, NY — Aug 2006-Sept 2007.

Managed engineering team of 10 developers (direct reports). Ensured availability for web site handling 6 million page views and 1.5 million unique visitors per day, with 400+ TB of traffic per month. Maintained vendor relationships and budgets.

- Built hosting infrastructure on EC2, including configuration management, monitoring services, code deployment tools, and database failover.
- Migrated video and web content to S3, cutting delivery and storage costs by 75%.
- Performed load testing using Siege, HTTP_Load, and AB.
- Optimized application by adding memcache, class autoloading, message queuing (asynchronous processing), and reverse proxies (page caching).
- Negotiated hosting and CDN contracts within budget of \$600K.
- Redesigned site to allow for proper crawling, responsible for increasing Google search index penetration from 25 pages to over 98,000.
- Hands-on development all points of architecture including database design, internal web services, application development, and front-end (HTML, Ajax, JavaScript, CSS).
- Introduced strict compliance with W3C web standards (XHTML and CSS).
- Administered Apache servers, including extensive use of mod_rewrite.
- Participated in senior management team.

Director of Technology, ID Society; New York, NY — May 2005-Sep 2006

Senior Developer, ID Society; New York, NY — Aug 2004-May 2005

Oversaw all technical needs for online marketing agency of 35 employees. Managed a team of 12 full-time employees and contractors. Developed and maintained numerous web sites for our clients within a fault-tolerant LAMP environment (Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP).

- Hands-on development with PHP, Perl, MySQL, XML, PGP encryption, Flash, ActionScript, JavaScript, HTML, and CSS.
- Implemented e-commerce systems, including: shopping cart applications, payment gateways, fulfillment vendors, security audits, and CPI/CISP compliance.
- Implemented data exchange processes with partners and clients.
- Developed techniques for allowing search engines to index Flash-heavy web sites.
- Introduced MVC and object-oriented PHP into development process.

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- Administered Apache web servers, MySQL databases, mail, DNS, ProFTPd servers, source control (CVS and Subversion), bug tracking (Bugzilla).
- Managed the migration of entire corporate network and collocated web hosting environment from FreeBSD to RedHat (CentOS) over 12 months.
- Oversaw quality assurance, browser testing, security audits, and load tests.
- Managed web analytics, conversion reporting, and log analysis.

Web Developer (Independent Contractor); Denver, CO — July 1999-Aug 2004

Developed web sites and database applications. Designed and optimized relational databases. Managed search engine optimization (SEO) strategies and link building campaigns. Wrote proposals, functional specifications, and cost estimates. Managed contractors and vendors in designing and building web sites.

- Architected a content management system in PHP and MySQL that has been in daily use for over 7 years and drives content to web sites, kiosks, and third-party systems.
- Developed kiosks in Flash with XML feeds from our database.
- Built an automated, location-based news distribution system using Perl, PHP, MySQL, and Cron, with integration of third-party databases.
- Developed a location-based coupon marketing tool using PHP and Oracle.
- Wrote web pages and templates using W3C web standards (XHTML and CSS).
- Implemented Ajax search forms and auto-complete fields for intranet applications.
- Developed a local business directory site using ColdFusion and Access.
- Improved search rankings for web sites using semantic XHTML and link campaigns.

Associate Web Master, Houghton Mifflin Co.; Boston, MA — Oct 1998-July 1999

Developed applications and web sites for use within corporate intranet.

- Developed database management tools using Perl, HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.
- Write technical specifications, functional specifications, and end-user documentation.

Education

Master of Arts, Digital Media, 2004 — University of Denver, Denver, CO
Bachelor of Arts, Chemistry, 1998 — Lafayette College, Easton, PA

Notable Achievements

Speaker at Velocity 2009 (O'Reilly Media's web performance and operations conference).

Published articles in *A List Apart* (Dec 2006), *IBM DeveloperWorks* (April 2006 and May 2006), and *Communications of the ACM* (Feb 2001).