Chris Heald

Systems and Software Engineer, Architect, and Administrator

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I am a highly skilled and experienced software and systems architect with 17 years of experience as a software developer/dev-ops/systems administrator. I have a particular passion for reliable, performant, and elegant systems, and for building and leading the teams which use and support those systems.

Skills

- Top-to-bottom cloud systems design and management, including infrastructure orchestration with Saltstack and Docker, high availability and load balancing, security, backup management, and health and performance instrumentation.
- Administration and implementation of the AWS services stack, including EC2, Route53, VPC, IAM, ETS, EMR, SQS, SES, Athena, Lambda, DynamoDB, and many others.
- Administration and management of Linux servers, particularly RHEL, Ubuntu, and Amazon Linux.
- Systems and server software design and development in Ruby (esp. Rails), Javascript (NodeJS, ES5 and ES6), Python, PHP, and C#, and Java. I'm a capable polyglot with experience in dozens of languages and an affinity for picking up new systems quickly.
- Web development front-end software design and development in Javascript/HTML/CSS, with experience building high-traffic, performance-oriented web applications. Experiences with popular front-end ecosystems such as React, AngularJS, and GraphQL.
- Rigorous automated specs and testing, primarily with RSpec (in Ruby/Rails) Jasmine/Mocha (in Javascript), and Nosetests (in Python).
- Administration, scaling, and use of a plethora of database and data management systems, including Postgres, MySQL, MongoDB, Redis, Elasticsearch, RabbitMQ, and Apache Kafka.
- Prolific open source contributor. I have contributed substantially to high-profile projects such as JRuby, Haml, Sass, Celluloid, MongoMapper, and the 10gen Mongo Ruby drivers. I am additionally the author and maintainer of Manticore, a high-performance JRuby HTTP client.

Experience

Mashable Inc / Chief Architect

2009 - PRESENT, GILBERT AZ

- Built and led a team of 12 developers who were responsible for development and maintenance of all of Mashable's public-facing products, including web applications, advertising campaigns, newsletters, and third-party platform integrations.
- Architected and led the development of Mashable's web presence, both web applications and server infrastructure. Product serves over 60mm pageviews and over 650TB of data delivered per month. Key accomplishments include multi-region redundancy and full high availability Included the seamless transition from a Wordpress blog to a fully in-house solution consisting of separate CMS and frontend delivery products.
- Architected and built Mashable's Velocity Crawler, a full-internet-scale web crawler, which crawls the web-at-large, indexes and classifies content, monitors social media for engagement with content found, and develops a predictive score for which content is "going viral". I am a co-inventor of four patents related to Mashable's Velocity product.
- Architected and built Mashable Kilogram, an analytics tool which enables Mashable to understand its social reach and to analyze the nature in which information spreads across social networks.
- Architected and built Mashable Kraken, a data ingestion, transform, warehousing, and querying/analysis platform. Built for terabyte-scale data ingestion and analysis of arbitrary data streams on Apache Kafka and Amazon EMR and Athena.

Tag Team Interactive / Founder and Chief Technical Officer

2007 - 2009, CHANDLER AZ

Developed, built, and deployed blippr.com, a platform for "microreviews" of media, designed around a then-novel socially-driven recommendations engine. Blippr.com was acquired by Mashable in 2009 and subsequently sunsetted.

Target Training International / Junior Software Engineer

2000-2007, SCOTTSDALE AZ

Responsible for the development, maintenance, and testing of TTI's web products, working primarily in Delphi, PHP, and ASP.NET.

Awards & Achievements

- Patent US9304976: "Positioning media to go viral"
- Patent US9380013: "Identifying a second media content to go viral based on a velocity threshold of a first media content"
- Patent US9571446: "Messaging media to go viral"
- Patent US9749431: "Finding a potentially viral first media content and transmitting a second media content that is selected based on the first media content and based on the determination that the first media content exceeds a velocity threshold"
- Top 0.5% of all contributing users on StackOverflow, the internet's largest QA platform for software and systems administration.