

Shad Sterling

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Atlanta, GA

Introduction: My career path has been very unusual, and I think it bears some explaining.

In high school my attention was largely split between being a computer geek and being a performing artist. I was in many school plays, musicals, and dance concerts, and when I wasn't in rehearsal I was coding some thing or other on my computer. This was at the very beginning of the Internet and of Linux, so I mostly used simple DOS-based tools and dead-tree documentation.

After high school I went to college because I didn't have any clear idea of what to do with myself, and that seemed to be the default. Not really wanting to be there, I didn't do well and was unhappy, so I didn't continue. I had spent the previous two summers in Atlanta working with some circus performers, and after leaving school I decided to move there to work with them more. (That's right, I actually ran away with the circus.)

I worked as a circus performer for a few years, until the company we all worked for mismanaged itself out of business. After that I floundered awhile, wanting to continue performing but not having a way to do so. Eventually I found a good "day job," payed off my starving-artist debt, and started going back to school to pursue my interest in developing simulation software

Now, I'm still in school part-time, still performing part-time, and interested in any interesting part-time coding work with a flexible schedule.

Work

July 2004 to
present

Abel Screening

Systems Administrator

Atlanta, GA

<http://abelscreening.com>

Abel Screening is a small software company which publishes software implementing psychological tests designed by Gene G. Abel M.D. and his research staff. Between 2004 and 2007 my responsibilities grew from technical support for customers and coworkers to managing the entirety of the company's network & computing infrastructure. At times I have also had a role in developing and maintaining the company website, and developing and testing new versions of our products.

March 2003 to
July 2004

Child Molestation Research & Prevention Institute

Administrative Assistant, Technology Advisor

Atlanta, GA

<http://childmolestationprevention.org>

I worked with the President of the Institute to prepare talks which were given to a wide variety of audiences, to spread knowledge of how to prevent the sexual abuse of children. I also helped in the day-to-day paper management, organization of computer records, technology-related decision making, and whatever else came up.

Oct. 2001 to
July 2004

SterFish Consulting

Chief, Technician

Atlanta, GA

Initially a venture of myself and Michael Fisher, we sought to provide freelance tech support to PC users in the Atlanta area. Michael moved to California in late 2002, leaving the business to me. Because of our and my lack of marketing expertise and funding, the business initially grew slowly, and ultimately proved fruitless. For some time I continued to do occasional freelance work, both troubleshooting for workstations and coding for server interfaces.

Jan. 2001 to
May 2002

7 Course Theatre

Systems Administrator, Computer technology director

Atlanta, GA

Administrator of a network of RedHat Linux 7.1 and Windows NT 4.0 servers, and Windows 98 Workstations. I was responsible for all system maintenance, upgrading, troubleshooting, and I advised the owners on related spending. The company downsized in 2002 until everything was done on one computer; For some time I continued to provide services when needed. (I also performed with the 7 Course Theatre Aerial Dance Ensemble, December 1999—May 2002)

March 1999 to **DaimlerChrysler via Kelly Temporary Services**

Dec. 2000

Computer Operator, Atlanta Parts Distribution Center

Morrow, GA

Managed the computer's issuance of work assignments for the outbound operation. This involved selecting, reviewing, and correcting each wave of outgoing shipments, as well as modifying order selection criteria, some parts of correcting inventory errors, and other miscellaneous duties. This Warehouse served most of the Dodge/Chrysler/Jeep dealers in the southeast US, handling roughly one million dollars in parts every day. Most of my work could have been done better by a well written program.

Winter

1995/1996

Technical Advisors

Subcontractor

Canton, MI

Commissioned to write a simple command-line style calculator in Pascal (Used Borland Turbo Pascal 7.0 for DOS). Took a few weeks to learn Pascal. After finishing the program, I was asked to remove operators, apparently because TA mistakenly thought that would reduce the complexity of the program (I can only assume they wanted it for some sort of teaching purposes).

Summer/Fall

1994

Programmable Designs

Assembler

Ann Arbor, MI

Soldered components onto prepared circuit boards.

School

Georgia State University

Major in Computer Science

Atlanta, GA

<http://www.gsu.edu>

June 2006 to
present

Currently working part-time toward a bachelors degree in computer science, with an emphasis in physics and mathematics. I have in mind to pursue academic work on simulation software for applications involving large numbers of interacting parts.

Ball State University

Double Major in Dance and Computer Science

Muncie, IN

<http://bsu.edu>

Aug. 1997 to
May 1998

Began working towards a bachelors degree. I did not continue after the first year because, though the dance department was good, the general atmosphere was not, and I found myself stifled socially and – except in dance – creatively.

Personal

Geek

As a geek I'm interested in seamlessness and avoiding unnecessary limitations. I've found that using different tools can sometimes help with that, but in general most development tools can do most things. I am familiar with many things - Windows, Linux, OS X, HTML/CSS, C, C++, PHP, Ruby, SQL, Visual Studio, Samba, Apache, MS Office, OpenOffice, - but my preference lately has been Ruby for high-level, C for low-level, and any syntax-highlighting text editor.

Performer

I have been performing in various capacities ever since I first joined my school choir in 3rd grade. In my spare time I am still actively involved in performing arts, primarily as a dancer and handbalancer, but also some in aerial dance and other forms of theater.