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Professional Experience

24 years professional software development: 15 years in network management and measurement software, 9 years in embedded software. C++ programmer since 1996, C programmer since the 1980's.

Kostal

August 2013 - May 2017

Senior Project Engineer

Door control unit: Embedded software in C for a DCU with window and other door controls. Sensorless, pinch protection, etc.

Electronic shifter: Developed software in C for an electronic rotary shifter for a new Ford vehicle with ISO 26262 safety requirements. Supported SPICE/CMMI audit. Co-developed software validation and integration test plans. Project utilizes Renesas 32-bit and 8-bit microcontrollers.

unit test skeleton generator: Used LLVM/clang frontend APIs to create a tool to generate unit test skeletons from existing code. This saves a lot of time in creating unit tests for code we port and modify for various projects on various microcontrollers. Modern C++ used (C++11/14).

CANdb parser: Created a tool to parse Vector CANdb files to insulate our projects from database changes made by our customers. Tool generates a fully documented header file for inclusion in our source. Modern C++ used (C++11/14).

CAN log parser: Created a tool to parse CANoe log files. Created for a project using CAN-TP, with a complex application layer protocol above the TP layer (infotainment in a large luxury vehicle with multiple graphical displays and sources). This saved a lot of time debugging source and destination modules on the CAN bus.

S-Record parser and CRC embedder: Created a general purpose C++ library and command-line tools to process S-record files for microcontrollers. Integrated into our build and debugging environment.

GM Research via MicroMax and Danlaw

May 2013 - July 2013

Senior Software Engineer

Autonomous vehicles: Developed software in C++ for use in autonomous vehicles, aggregating and distributing data from various sensor sources.

Lear Corporation via MicroMax and Danlaw

December 2008 - May 2013

Senior Software Engineer

EVSE: Sole developer of software for all 2012 and 2013 Lear EVSE: custom bootloader, applications (12 variants) and diagnostics. Developed custom protocol and PC-based GUI application to communicate with bootloader over EVSE pilot line for reflashing, fault log retrieval and software identification. Developed diagnostic display on limited-function display on my own time, in the interest of greatly reducing the man hours required for design and production validation. Prepared all documentation required for UL1998 certification (risk analysis, architecture document, etc.). Developed the software validation test plan. Provided input to hardware design. Currently working on software validation test box (both software and hardware) required for new features, as well as end-of-line testing.

2011 Chevy Volt on-board battery charger: Developed the bootloader and application for one of the three microcontrollers in the 2011 Chevy Volt's on-board high voltage battery charger. Designed the messaging protocol (running over SPI) used between all of the microcontrollers. Implemented the messaging protocol on two of the three microcontrollers.

2013 Smart EV battery charger: Designed and implemented the bootloader for two of the three microcontrollers (Freescale S12P family). This was a tight deadline project. I delivered the code and documentation in 9 working days.

Arbor Networks

September 2004 - October 2008

Senior Software Engineer

Addressed scaling issues in Arbor's SP (Service Provider) software suite (a NetFlow-based system). Introduced C++ and CORBA to the system (migrating away from CGI for middleware). Helped port the system from OpenBSD 2.8/3.3 to OpenBSD 3.6 with SMP. Updated the toolchain to gcc 3.4.3 (from gcc 2.95). Removed bottlenecks in distributed messaging and relational database transactions. Integrated sFlow as a data source.

Trendium

April 2004 - June 2004

System Programmer

Helped port Trendium ServicePATH product to Linux from Solaris. Project completed at the end of June 2004.

Ixia

2002 - 2004

Chief Architect, NetOps

Chief architect of NetOps suite. Continued work on NetFlow and BGP-4; Caimis was acquired by Ixia in late 2001, renaming the product suite IxTraffic. Helped develop reporting GUI for IxTraffic using java and CORBA. Implemented compressed storage of raw NetFlow data for detailed accounting. Improved performance of BGP-4 implementation in IxTraffic. Added new types of aggregate data to IxTraffic. Started design and implementation of configuration system for all Ixia products, using XML Schema and DOM (using Xerces from the apache group).

Caimis

2001

Co-founder, Chief Architect

Developed systems for collecting and correlating NetFlow data from Cisco and Juniper routers with BGP-4 data for the purpose of traffic engineering in large networks. Developed modern BGP-4 implementation (C++, multithreaded) for passive monitoring of BGP-4 from any number of peers. Used CORBA as the middleware, permitting remote retrieval of routing tables, route lookups, etc. Served as chief architect for entire Caimis software suite. Provided customized solutions and support for customer-specific analysis of BGP-4 within their networks (MED cycling, etc.). Developed build and upgrade deployment strategy for distributed data collectors, and distributed monitoring of the collectors (decentralized).

CAIDA

1998 - 2001

Researcher, Software Engineer

Developed cflowd, a system for collecting and analyzing data from Cisco NetFlow output. Developed skitter, a large-scale Internet path measurement tool using ICMP. Developed arts++, a library for storing and retrieving large quantities of data from cflowd and skitter. Helped Cisco develop NetFlow version 8, and helped Juniper test their NetFlow implementation. System builder and administrator for CAIDA measurement hosts.

ANS (Advanced Network and Services), AOL (America Online)

1992 - 1998

Staff Engineer, Senior Engineer

Developed network management systems software for NSFNET T3 and ANS networks. Developed ICMP and SNMP pollers for the ANS Network Operations Center. Developed alert management system. Developed trouble ticketing system applications for 7x24 Network Operations Center using early release of Remedy trouble ticketing system. System administrator and developer for monitoring and other support hosts worldwide (what would today be called DevOps). Helped Cisco develop NetFlow version 5.

Awards

1999 NANOG (North American Network Operators Group) Distinguished Member

1997 NANOG (North American Network Operators Group) Distinguished Member

1997 ANS President's Award

1996 ANS President's Award

Technologies

Programming	C++, C, Objective-C, assembly, flex/lex, bison/yacc, php, Java, CORBA, XML Schema, XML DOM, UNIX shells, Perl, SQL, Qt, Cocoa, javascript
Protocols	TCP/IP, DNS, BGP, ICMP, SNMP, SPI, CAN, RS-232
Operating Systems	FreeBSD, Linux, OS X, Solaris

Education

B.S. Electrical Engineering

December 1991

- University of Michigan

Interests

distributed systems

One of the driving factors in my move to automotive software was my interest in distributed real-time systems; many small pieces working together to provide higher-level functionality. A typical modern luxury vehicle has over 100 microcontrollers running software.

efficient computing

Long before we had smartphones and IoT, I became interested in low-power computing, the race to sleep paradigm on modern CPUs, and efficient software. I've applied some of the automotive world's strategies for low power consumption in my personal projects. I continue to be interested in high-level abstractions that can be compiled to native or near-native code: modern C++, JIT compilers for various languages, etc.

Other Software Experience

This is a partial list of software I've developed for personal and professional use, outside of the workplace. This list is only intended to indicate additional skills and technologies I've used effectively.

mcpigdo

Recent project that combined my embedded skills with my long-time C++ and UNIX skills. Allows me to open and close and monitor my garage doors with my cell phone. I may eventually seek approval for Apple CarPlay so I can use it from my vehicles with CarPlay. FreeBSD on the Raspberry Pi, reading rotary encoders and magnetic switches and activating the garage door opener. Encrypted JSON-encoded status multicasted on my LAN, two-layer crypto used for commands. This is a full stack project, from device drivers for the rotary encoders to the web application that communicates with a server on the Pi over an encrypted TCP connection.

libDwm

Approximately 38,000 lines of C++ library code used in most of my C++ projects. Licensed (without charge) to some of my previous employers for use in commercial products. Long-lived project.

dwmgallery

Replaced gallery3 on my web servers. Modern C++ using Wt. Fast and efficient, batch uploads, drag-and-drop uploads, captioning, editing, searching, authentication/authorization, etc. Runs gracefully on low-end hardware (Intel Atom with 4G RAM). No RDBMS: database is custom and small in comparison to even sqlite3 and supports ECMAScript regular expression searches.

sitetraffic

Tracks traffic to and from my web site at home. Uses packet sniffing to track packets and bytes as well as TCP round-trip times from SYN and SYN/ACK pairs. I have been collecting data since April 2011. Wt-based interactive charts provide a view of the data on my web site.

Mib++

Complete SNMP MIB compiler for SMIv2 written from scratch using flex, bison and C++. Instead of generating code, my compiler generates a database that can be queried from applications. Database lookups are speedy, with a reasonably small memory footprint.

Dns

A C++ class library for asynchronous DNS lookups. This was motivated by the need to perform millions of reverse (in-addr) lookups from the IP addresses in skitter and other network measurement data. Nearly every record type in common use for IPv4 is supported: A, CNAME, PTR, MX, NS, SOA, HINFO, MB, MR, MG, MINFO, and LOC records.

sitesearch

The indexing and searching facilities used on my web sites. Indexes HTML pages, php pages, Wordpress blogs and gallery3 photo galleries. Makes them all quickly searchable via the search box on my web sites. Back end is C++ with flex lexers and bison parsers. Front end is mostly javascript. Data store uses Xapian.

mcbback

A wrapper around dump(8) that backs up all of my FreeBSD hosts over the network on a nightly basis.

avrslave

Allows a PC to command various hardware actions on an Atmel AVR microcontroller via an RS232 connection: general purpose I/O, PWM, ADC reads. Includes code for both the AVR and the PC. Useful for hardware end-of-line tests of PCBs with Atmel AVR microcontrollers. The RS232 can use UART hardware or a software UART on any digital I/O pin on the AVR microcontroller. Microcontroller code is C++, PC code is C++ and C#.

miscellaneous embedded work

I've designed and deployed a small number of Atmel AVR based projects in my own vehicles using the Atmel AVR 8-bit microcontrollers. Examples: a simple controller to change the drive-by-wire throttle mapping, a controller to enable and disable different levels of dynamic stability control (and remember my settings across drive cycles), and a controller to flash my third brake lamp based on rate of deceleration (using the speed signal from the rear differential), LED cabin lighting with PWM dimming and separate red and white lighting.

phlegmp3

An mp3 jukebox system. It multicasts mp3 data over RTP, and uses CORBA for control, upload/download, etc. Nearly all of it is written in C++, though there is a java client to control the jukebox. The main client uses Qt for the GUI.

sparkle

Monitored and controlled X-10 devices in my home. Speaks to a few different X-10 devices (MR261, PowerLink, CM17A). A central servant provided a CORBA interface for clients.

Hobbies

software

Writing software is not just my profession; I enjoy it as a primary hobby. I maintain a personal web site hosted at my home (www.rfdm.com), mostly for my own use. I have personally authored much of the software behind the web site. I always have personal software projects in progress, embedded and otherwise.

system administration

I've been running some flavor of UNIX server at home for over 20 years. Today I have three FreeBSD machines in my home that run 7x24. A storage server, my web/mail server and my gateway/firewall.

automobiles

I've been fascinated with automobiles since childhood. I enjoy working on my cars, attending car shows and an occasional day at the race track in my own car.