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Soren Bjornstad

Software Developer / DevOps Engineer

Work Experience

Systems Developer I–II, Tools & Languages, Federated Insurance   Jun 2017 – Jan 2021

I served as the primary in-house expert/support person, infrastructure administrator, and developer for a wide variety of DevOps tools and several technology stacks.

- Introduced and managed a highly successful StackOverflow for Teams instance, improving collaboration and saving thousands of hours of developer time per year.
- Maintained a 300-user Azure DevOps instance. Developed and maintained centrally managed build patterns, migrated to the cloud version almost single-handedly, and automated most complex administrative tasks with ServiceNow and ad-hoc PowerShell.
- Served as a platform subject matter expert for Python, PowerShell, .NET, OutSystems low-code, Azure DevOps, Git, Azure, and a handful of other tools.
- Led automation and process improvement efforts of all kinds.

Systems Developer III, DevSecOps, Federated Insurance   Jan 2021 – Jul 2021

The Tools & Languages team was disbanded in favor of a more distributed support model. I was one of two people chosen to move up to a higher-level role, where we reduced our support of the department but continued to work on the most difficult problems and implement new initiatives.

Dunno what it's called, RemNote   Jan 2022 – present

- Support: worked with 30+ users per day to answer technical and learning-related questions, resolve issues, and reproduce and log bugs.
- Technical writing: Wrote documentation and UI copy. Edited most high-impact content written by others.
- Engineering: fixed a wide variety of bugs. Created a vision for and implemented a new, expansive flashcards-based learning system.

Other Experience

open-source software and writing   2014 – present

I maintain a number of popular add-ons for the Anki and TiddlyWiki projects, along with a variety of other open-source tools, including an indexing application and a Reverse Polish Notation calculator. I also produce educational videos, blog posts, and other resources on tech, including the highly regarded online textbook *Grok TiddlyWiki*.

Formal Education

St. Olaf College   Sep 2013 – May 2017

- B. A. in Computer Science and Latin, summa cum laude
- National Merit Scholar; member of Eta Sigma Phi and Phi Beta Kappa honor societies

Technologies

Experienced/Expert (can be fully productive at a high level on my first day)

- Python
- PowerShell
- Bash
- Azure DevOps (aka TFS)
- Git
- Linux

Familiar (more than beginner, less than expert)

- Java
- C and C++
- VB.NET
- HTML /CSS/JavaScript
- SQL (several flavors)
- Flask
- Lua
- Prolog
- Lisp/Racket
- SSIS/RS/AS
- Microsoft Power BI
- R
- LaTeX
- Sphinx (documentation)
- Azure and AWS
- OutSystems (low-code)
- Qt (UI framework)

Interests

Professional

Agile/DevOps, documentation and team knowledge-sharing, human-computer interaction, programming languages, security, software design and patterns, statistics

Personal

estral music, literature and poetry, linguistics, memory, note-taking,
graphy