ALI-AKBER SAIFEE

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"Turn up the signal. Wipe out the noise. Send out the signals, deep and loud." - Peter Gabriel

Nutshell

15 years

- Developing and designing Python applications & libraries
- Developing test automation solutions.
- Working in culturally & geographically diverse environments and teams.

10 years

- Designing and maintaining software configuration management systems.
- Leading development and quality assurance teams to build, deploy and release backend, web & mobile applications.
- Maintaining and contributing to open source projects.

4 years

- Developing C++ applications & libraries.
- Building Ruby/Ruby on Rails applications.
- Developing and maintaining Java server applications.

Professional Experience

- **Reddit**, Burnaby, Canada
  Senior Software Engineer   *November 2020 - March 2022*
  Backend application development in the Anti-Evil (Safety) team
  - Extraction of reporting functionality into an isolated service exposed to the clients through GraphQL
  - Built i18n support for the reporting service which was then adopted by various other services.
  - Worked on automated classification of spam content
  - Worked on solutions for detection & filtering of harassment and toxic messaging
  - Optimization of test suites to improve code coverage
  - Optimized API performance of comment listing
  - Migrated services from a puppet/vagrant based development environment to a production-parallel kubernetes managed workspace

- **Toptal**, Remote
  Team Lead / Backend Software Engineer   *September 2017 - May 2019*
  Participated and led the development of internal tools and APIs for community & talent acquisition features.
  - Implemented GraphQL API for mobile & web clients
  - Implemented bot functionality to interact with customers over Slack.
  - Optimized unit & integration tests to reduce time spent in continuous integration.

- **Honestbee**, Singapore
  Director, Engineering   *January 2016 - April 2017*
  Led the Devops, QA & Backend engineering teams in building an online grocery, food, home services delivery & concierge platform.
  - Managed & provided technical guidance to Devops & QA Engineering.
  - Led backend projects in Ruby on Rails, Golang & Elixir
  - Mentored junior engineers
  - Hiring and onboarding of the engineering team

- **Zopim (acquired by Zendesk)**, Singapore
  Director of Engineering, Quality & Operations / Software Engineer   *October 2013 - January 2015*
  Integrated development best practices in to the SDLC & contributed to server application development.
  - Implemented automated testing and continuous integration for Python & javascript applications.
  - Implemented the public REST API for the Chat Service.
  - Built a secure, segregated application & environment for credit card related payments.
  - Performed maintenance and feature development for a heterogeneous group of Python applications built on Flask, Django, Celery & Twisted.

- **mig33**, Singapore
  Director of Sustainability Engineering *January 2012 - April 2013*
  Director of Quality Assurance *July 2010 - December 2011*
  Built development operations capabilities within the engineering team. Led and developed the Quality Assurance and Release Management team for the mobile client applications and the services it relies on.

  – Transitioned & grew the engineering team after its move from San Francisco to Singapore.

  – Refined the development & release processes used by the server engineering teams.

  – Integrated & developed an automated & continuous build system complimented by automated testing.

  – Implemented a Python interface to the mig33 service with the primary motivation to provide a client independent interface for integration testing of the mig33 service.

- **Linden Lab**, Singapore
  Senior Quality Assurance Engineer *December 2009 - June 2010*
  Senior member of a distributed core Quality Assurance team, responsible for qualifying the simulator & server applications supporting the Virtual World services provided by the Secondlife platform.

  – Conducted white box qualification of simulator server for major server releases.

  – Created automated load & performance tests for validating web services for both front and back end applications.

  – Built a framework around funkload to perform functional and load testing for web services. The framework was adopted rapidly into the development cycle and ensures early integration testing.

- **muvee Technologies**, Singapore
  Senior Software Engineer (Quality Assurance) *January 2008 - November 2009*
  Software Engineer (Quality Assurance) *May 2005 - December 2007*
  Engineering lead for test automation, build & setup engineering for automated video editing applications and services.

  – Designed and implemented a scalable testing framework that exposes a unified model for testing from the unit to system level. Subsequently took the framework from a proof-of-concept into the production cycle and successfully incorporated an automation driven build acceptance process for the company's flagship product.

  – Migrated the desktop application setup and deployment system to a customized solution that integrated into the development cycle. This resulted in a modular, source controlled manifest of deployment that allowed for automated continuous builds of all product variants.

  – Created a one-click build system and served as build-master for core product line and auxiliary applications and services.

Open Source Projects

coredis: Async redis client with support for redis server, cluster & sentinel.

Flask-Limiter: Rate-limiting extension for Flask

limits: Rate-limiting utilities for python

jira-cli: Yet another jira command line interface.

holmium.core: Page objects & Utilities for writing selenium test cases.

hiro: Time manipulation utilities for Python

sifr: Eefficient windowed counters for python.

flutter: Intelligent test selection based on code changes

Conferences

- Invited to speak at the Google Test Automation Conference (GTAC), 2007 in New York, USA.
  Presentation: muvee Framework for Autonomous Testing (muFAT)

- Invited to speak at the Research in Motion Test Automation Conference (RimTAC), 2008 in Waterloo, Canada.
  Presentation: muvee Framework for Auto[nomous/mated] Testing (muFAT)

Training

Bachelor of Engineering, McGill University, Montréal, Canada *Fall 2004*

Major: *Computer Engineering*
   Concentrations in Human Computer Interaction & Software Engineering Practice.

Minor: *Management Studies*

Highlights

- Created the speech interface of an automated door attendant using open source technologies (Sphinx) developed at CMU.

- Designed and fabricated an autonomous obstacle avoiding vehicle using PIC microcontrollers.

- Augmented a table tennis game into a virtually immersive environment - playable solely through gestural interactions with the system.

Toolkit

Software Engineering & Quality Assurance

Programming Languages C, C++ , Java, Python, Go, Perl, PHP, Ruby, Elixir & JavaScript.

Test Automation Funkload, Locust, Tsung, Selenium.

Application Development

J2EE JBoss & Spring Application Framework

Web Development Python web frameworks (Django, bottle, Flask, Pyramid, Falcon, Twisted & Tornado), PHP & Ruby on Rails.

Databases

Relational MySQL, Postgres & SQLite

noSQL Redis, Cassandra, Couchbase, MongoDB & Riak.

Caching Redis, Memcached & Mcrouter

Search Elasticsearch, Fusion & Solr

Message Brokers RabbitMQ, Kafka & ZeroMQ.

Software Configuration

Version Control Git, Mercurial & Subversion (I'm old enough to have used CVS and SourceSafe)

Continuous Integration Drone, Jenkins/Hudson, TeamCity, Travis.

Deployment Spinnaker, Fabric, Chef, Puppet, Salt & Ansible.

Containerization Docker, Tilt & Kubernetes.