

# Brandon Harper

Pragmatic Software Engineer

<http://bharper.com>

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## EXPERIENCE & GOALS SUMMARY

- 11 years of professional Software Engineering experience as a pragmatic, seasoned developer in a variety of environments using a Computer Science background with a focus on standards based, scalable applications
- 9+ years of experience with building, scaling, and maintaining heterogeneous enterprise applications.
- Self-motivated, passionate, driven, self-teaching professional who is able to learn and adapt to new technologies very quickly, and keeps current with new technology as a hobby as well as a career
- Excellent liaison between Software Engineers and Systems Administrators
- Great verbal and written communication skills; communicates well with clients, colleagues and executives.

## EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

**EDUCATION:** *Computer Science* - Regis University, Denver Colorado. Junior, 2nd semester. Completed areas include Software Engineering, Java, C, UML, Unix, OS Theory, Computation Theory, and OO Analysis & Design.

**EDITORIAL REVIEW BOARD:** *ColdFusion Developers Journal*. 2006-2007

**TECHNICAL EDITOR:** *Inside ColdFusion MX*, New Riders Publishing. ISBN: 0735713049. Published in August, 2002.

**AUTHOR:** *Java Developers Journal* and *ColdFusion Developers Journal*, print & online editions. <http://is.gd/2lmz>

## TECHNICAL SKILLS SUMMARY

**PRIMARY LANGUAGES AND OPERATING SYSTEMS:** Java 1.4 - 6, ColdFusion 3.1 - 8, Linux, OS X, FreeBSD and Windows

**OTHER VARIOUS EXPERIENCE:** C, x86 Assembler, Ruby, PHP, Python, Hibernate, iBatis, Spring, Maven, Ant, Apache Axis, Apache Wicket, JSP, Servlets, JSF, XHTML, CSS, MySQL, PostgreSQL, Oracle, MS SQL Server, Sybase, UML, JDBC, JVM issues & tuning, Apache Tomcat, Jetty, JBoss, JRun, Jabber XCP, XMPP, Apache Lucene, EJB 2-3, JPA, Apache HTTPD, Microsoft IIS, Adobe Flex, Flash, Eclipse, Solaris, RedHat ES, Amazon EC2 & S3, Performance & Scalability issues, load balancers, SSL accelerators, capacity planning, enterprise migrations, network & systems architecture, and security issues.

## RECENT INDUSTRY WORK EXPERIENCE

**SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER:** BT (BT Conferencing, Video Business Unit), Westminster, CO. 05/08-Current - BT is one of the largest telecom companies in the world with over 100,000 employees and a market cap of over 23 billion dollars. I work on a small Agile team in 5 week release cycles with high-end video conferencing technology. BT's video conferencing product is the industry leader which is in use by 56 of the top Fortune 100 companies.

- Part of our core architecture team-- helped design our future clustered, high availability environment which is currently being implemented. Technologies used include JBoss, Apache Tomcat, Apache HTTPD, Solaris, Load Balancing, etc.
- Added various enhancements and equipment to our core resource scheduling algorithm, which schedules everything from bandwidth usage, to video conference equipment usage, etc. all across the globe.
- Implemented geocoding into our user and systems data to improve our algorithm of assigning videoconferencing and bandwidth resources during conference scheduling. Technology used includes Java, Apache Lucene, Hibernate, Hibernate Search, JPA, Sybase, and Spring.
- Added many technologies into our platform stack and dev process including Spring, JPA, Hibernate, and JUnit
- Develop and automate functionality for various videoconferencing hardware from vendors such as Cisco, Polycom, Tandberg, and LifeSize. Technologies used include HTTP, SSH, SNMP, Telnet, Java, and JUnit

**SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER:** Me.dium, Boulder, CO. 02/07-02/08 - Me.dium (now OneRiot) was a well funded, high visibility start-up dedicated to exposing the people dimension of the internet by recommending sites, people, and chat topics to it's users. I was hired as part of a team of founding engineers to build and scale various parts of Me.dium's infrastructure using Agile/Scrum methodology managed via Rally during the seeding phase of financing.

- Rewrote our chat server implementation using a Java NIO based library which reduced our thread usage per server by half, thereby increasing our horizontal scalability potential per server by 100%.
- Ported our main Java server product from Jetty to Apache Tomcat 6 using the new NIO connectors which cut our CPU usage by over 50 percent, and vastly improved the stability of our flagship product
- Co-architect of a new Java based public website for Me.dium which was powered by various services within our SOA, as well as JBoss, Apache Wicket, Spring, Hibernate, Maven, JUnit, and PostgreSQL. Built from scratch and completed in two months with a small team and using Scrum to replace a legacy website.
- Mavenized & automated the website development environment, setup, configured & tuned an n-tier application cluster running RedHat, JBoss 4.2 & Apache 2.2 for the website, and mentored Junior developers.

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- Created and maintained several core services used across the Me.dium enterprise.
- Refactored / converted a POJO based service architecture to EJB3 with Spring Injection and Hibernate 3.1 running on JBoss 4.2 to move from a “siloeed” architecture to an SOA based approach.
- Part of a self-driven skunkworks team who created a new product concept based on Java, Flash, Flex, and Actionscript which helped push the creative direction of the company.

**SENIOR SOFTWARE DEVELOPER:** Acxiom, Broomfield Colorado. 9/05-2/07. Acxiom was a NASDAQ traded, 1.5 billion dollar company with locations all over the globe. I worked in the Acxiom Risk division which provided various risk mitigation and screening services for a diverse client base of small to Fortune 500 companies and government agencies.

- Key Architect and developer for a core enterprise service platform which powers and manages several multi-million dollar products. Implemented in Oracle, Java, JBoss, JDBC, and JMX.
- Project leader and Server Architect for a turn-key migration of 30+ new J2EE application servers to the Acxiom data center for 15+ products. Technologies and skills used included JVM Tuning, Load Testing, Network and Server analysis, Code Reviews, etc.
- Architect for the application framework of Acxiom InsightCollect v3, the flagship product for our \$85M per year division. Technologies used included Java, Oracle, ColdFusion MX 7, and MS SQL Server
- Architect/lead developer for an enterprise reporting service platform which used proprietary search & scoring algorithms to determine relationships between people and within groups/fraud & crime rings of people utilizing Java, Oracle, ColdFusion, MS SQL Server, and PostgreSQL.
- Enterprise ColdFusion Subject Expert. I worked with various groups within Acxiom and assisted them with everything from JVM & server tuning advice to questions about best practices in software development. I also served as an informal mentor for a team of twelve developers in my division.

**SENIOR SOFTWARE DEVELOPER:** InsightAmerica, Broomfield Colorado. 02/03-9/05 - InsightAmerica was a startup company which grew from 40 employees to over 100 during my tenure, which was then acquired by Acxiom in September of 2005. InsightAmerica provided a wide range of industry leading risk mitigation and screening services for a diverse client base including Fortune 500 companies, federal and state agencies, and medium to small businesses.

- Configured, tuned, load tested, and maintained our clustered JRun Application Servers running Java 1.4, worked with Systems Architects & DBA's to design and implement scalable, enterprise level hosting solutions for new and existing products, and assist/mentored other developers with ColdFusion questions and issues
- Designed complex scoring & search algorithms to determine statistics such as most likely current address, likelihood of collecting debts from a subject, and many others.
- Key Architect and lead developer for a centralized SOA based platform which managed security, searching, user management, accounting, and billing in our enterprise. Technologies used included Java, ColdFusion, MS SQL Server, and Omnidex.

**SENIOR DEVELOPER:** Mallfinder Network, Denver Colorado. 10/01-2/03 - Mallfinder Network is a service provider for websites and other retail management solutions for over 140 malls across the US using a unified, highly scalable application architecture. I was the employee of the month in March, 2002.

**LEAD DEVELOPER:** Tesser, Boulder Colorado. 11/99-9/01 - Worked on high-traffic, high visibility web sites such as netidentity.com (which was recently acquired by Tucows). Wrote and maintained a CMS used on all Tesser sites.

**SOFTWARE DEVELOPER / SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR:** Online Marketing Network, Loveland Colorado. 5/98-11/99.

**WEBMASTER / ASSISTANT SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR:** University of Northern Colorado, Greeley Colorado. 1/98-5/98.

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS & INTERESTS

**Software Engineering News Source & Community Involvement** - My personal website's content is aggregated by sites such as the Adobe News Aggregator, Java Blogs, etc. My blog has also reached large audiences by being featured on popular sites such as Slashdot, Digg, the O'Reilly Hacks Blog, the Indeed blog, and del.icio.us/popular.

**High Profile Product** - Me.dium has been featured in national publications such as NY Times, USA Today, CNet, Forbes, and Yahoo!. Featured download on CNet, microsoft.com, and Flock. Launch partner with Microsoft for IE 8.

## ACTIVITES / ORGANIZATIONS / INTERESTS

- **Open Source Software:** I write about solutions to “gotchas” on my blog, and have contributed time to troubleshoot/fix bugs in projects such as JBoss, Spring, AmaroK, and others.
- **Academic Interests:** Cloud Computing, Scaling, High Availability, and Server Virtualization.
- **Geek Interests:** EFF, Ubuntu Linux, FreeBSD, Mac OS X, Video Games, and Open Source Software.
- **General Interests:** Cars, political & social issues, music, travel, dining, dogs, photography, and cooking.