

Matt Sergeant

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Profile

A highly experienced and valued developer, architect and mentor. I have a vast breadth of experience with internet technologies of all kinds, numerous high level contacts within these areas, and a very strong track record in building high performance scalable solutions for large companies requiring mission critical services.

Experience

Chief Anti-Spam Technologist, MessageLabs; Toronto, Canada – 2005-2010

Helped grow out the company in North America. Continued technology leadership producing critical products such as real-time signaturing system, improved spamtrap systems, performance and scalability work. Helped merge Anti-Spam and Anti-Virus teams into a global Malware team to enable cross-team knowledge sharing. Joined Open Source Review Board following purchase by Symantec in 2008. Member of Architecture Board. Became MessageLabs' key press speaker in North America.

Chief Anti-Spam Technologist, MessageLabs; Gloucester, UK – 2001-2005

Created MessageLabs award winning anti-spam solution as a one-man team. Grew the team to current level of 10 people. Created spam quarantine systems and web UI. Re-wrote entire anti-spam systems to be more scalable and pluggable to support future innovations. Created MessageLabs blocklisting system. Created domain blocking system for URLs in email. Produced innovative work and techniques for examining images within emails. Built out early design of the MessageLabs spamtrap network. Built fast string searching modules for spam signaturing systems.

Owner, AxKit.com; UK – 1999-2001

CTO and lead developer on a project to build a leading edge open source XML application server and content management system. AxKit is now one of the leading products in the open source community for building XML backed web sites, and has been used to successfully build many web sites providing alternate views for pages (such as WAP or HTML) and a friendly XML based development environment. The technologies built and designed by myself include XPathScript and the core engine inside AxKit. I also ported Cocoon's XSP technology to AxKit, and in doing so ensured that the AxKit implementation significantly improved on the original design while still maintaining cross platform compatibility.

Developer, O'Reilly and Associates; Remote Worker from UK - 2000-2001

Developing a commercial Web Discussion system, with Web, Email and NNTP interfaces. The project was a complete, from scratch development that I personally designed, architected and developed (with one further developer helping later). The technologies used included Object Oriented (OO) Perl5, mod_perl, DBI, MySQL, PostgreSQL, Oracle, Sybase, module design, Apache, multi threaded server development, Email and NNTP message parsing (Internet RFC's 821, 977, 1341, 1641

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and 2980), and much more. This was my first foray into email processing and helped a great deal with understanding message formats which would be used in my later work at MessageLabs.

Earlier employment information available on request

Education

University of Durham, England 1992-1996. BSc Computer Science.

Engagements

Many speaking engagements at a variety of technical conferences, most recently at MAAWG, and previously at a wide range of anti-spam and open source conferences.

Other Relevant Skills

I have participated in a large number of open source projects over the years. Most notably is my large collection of Perl modules on CPAN, various projects at the Apache Software Foundation including AxKit and SpamAssassin, and most recently work to significantly improve the performance and reliability of Qpsmtpd, a scalable and successful Perl based email server.

Referrals

Available on request.