

KIRK ROGERS – CTO | DEVOPS

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 • kirk@icapsolutions.com • 310.779.3744

Cover Letter

Here's a little insight as to what I'm capable of doing, resumes seem to get lost in translation - experience with a bit of personality and professional relationships is where you will find someone like me ...

I have many years of experience as a **Software Developer, Database Development and Administration**, as well as a **Unix System Administrator - DevOps**. I know what it takes to make excruciatingly difficult and detailed online products come to life, and if you have an online web product or service (think SaaS related, etc.), or if you're thinking of something to build, I'm the one you're looking for. Anyone can throw together an impressive resume, that's just a quick google cut/paste away, but how many can make this claim:

I solely conceived, developed, and launched my own online email marketing service back in the early 2000's. There was a huge need for online email blasting services to send commercial or corporate marketing material to clients, and since I was/am an email (MTA) expert, it seemed reasonable to create the beast. It's brief history is actually a long story, and unfortunately it fizzled out after a few years, and the ultimate demise of my product was the likes of ConstantContact, whom of course had investors and steamrolled the competition because of it. I thought at the time to find investors of my own, rework the front end from the prototype version, roll up the sleeves and do battle as I know I could have. I had several close friends who offered to put up some of the funding, but at the time I was starting a family and already had my first child with another one on the way. It seemed too risky at the time with everything else going on in my life so I just let it roll organically. It did managed to attract several clients, mostly small, made at one point a few thousand per month just enough to support the cost of the colo facility and equipment. Eventually, business went to the heavy hitting competitors and the plug had to be pulled.

The model I developed was a fully functioning, scalable, and self managing online email marketing service. The base configuration comprised of 4 servers:

server 1 - the web front end (Apache, mod_perl API)

server 2 - the database (mysql - MariaDB)

server 3 - the primary mail server (qmail - customized outbound MTA)

server 4 - bounce processor and image server (good ol Linux and Perl)

The scalability came with server 3, those qmail servers can be added to the mix as the custom install allows for multi node, multi domain and distribution options based on traffic flow.

I still have it, it lives on a single server in my office and is online, limited of course because I cant have anyone sign up and send 3 million emails ... that wouldn't be good. I think the signup process and client pages are in fact accessible, it even send out mailers but I believe I have it stop at 10 or 20, something like that anyway.

<https://www.mailaddiction.com>

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I haven't really touched it for some time now, the front end is a bit rough and is - in my view - still in the prototype phase. Just recently my son, who takes an art class, is making use of his newly acquired skills and is adding some fun looking graphics and learning a bit about web pages, templates, etc. He's already posted up his first image on the home page which I thought was cool, and he's making a few others which will soon be added header and several other pages. Eventually all the images will be replaced with his work, I'm just letting him run with it.

Prior to that, I worked for TRW (now Northrop) for 15 years as an engineer in the communications department. I did everything from drafting plans for their underground wiring system, CAD/CAM design, project management, software development, system administration, etc. My employment there is another long story, but I took away some great fundamentals which allowed me to branch out on my own as an independent IT consultant.

I'm currently working with an online job board called SalesJobs.com which is yet another extremely complicated system. I've been with this job for over 10 years (since 2006) and it's been a really great experience. It had, when I first came on board, over 20+ servers all performing as a "sort-of" cloud. It wasn't really, but over the years I've managed to consolidate all of that down to just a few larger more robust servers. I do everything with this system ... and I mean everything. I purchase the servers, have them sent to my office, load the OS (Fedora), load the supporting applications, install the custom programs and services, test, then send to our colo facility where it is plugged in and readied for cutover. I've done this so many times that I could almost do it in my sleep. I write all the code, make all the updates, solve all the problems, everything. But it's time to move on, to start a new chapter with someone or some service that needs expertise and experience, my next long term relationship.

I didn't just fall off the turnip truck, been around for a long time, I know a few things to say the least. I am not an expert in everything, if someone claims they're are, I will show you a liar. I am however, fairly clever and can figure out most if not any problem situation, I can certainly read/write code in many flavors, and most if not all other accompanying layers of protocols.

Kirk