



CHRISTIAN SKALA

CTO with hands-on development experience

christian.skala@gmx.com

<https://christian.skala.me/work>

page 1 of 2

Experience

1/2017 - present

Innovation Consultant

NEW YORK, NY

- Provided self-hosted NAS based on RAID and scaled over multiple servers
- Redesigned and relaunched WordPress website leveraging external API for stats
- Prototyped Android application for proof of concept
- Conceptualized blockchain product for American multinational banking and financial service company

11/2013 - 12/2016 **ISDA, Sr. Web Developer**

NEW YORK, NY

- Migrated all web servers from Apache to Nginx reducing systems administration by 15 hours per week
- Conducted training sessions for co-workers about OSI reference model, HTTP requests, DNS, AJAX, command line, Git
- Developed several WordPress themes and plugins for public and internal websites
- Programmed PHP / WordPress interface to connect to MSSQL-based Engagement Management System
- Integrated caching algorithm to lower response time of interface and website
- Enhanced online user experience and improved efficiency by using AJAX calls
- Defined coding standards to meet goals across multiple software projects
- Implemented Gitlab to host collaborative code repository
- Offered recommendations for tools, strategies, best practices and software lifecycle processes
- Determined the most effective way to integrate recommended tools, strategies, methodologies and best practices into various current and planned projects
- Drove the continuous pursuit of process improvement in software development
- Encouraged collaboration with other departments of the organization to increase quality and business value

3/2011 - 9/2013 **VERTIC, Sr. Interactive Developer**

NEW YORK, NY

- Set up multi domain WordPress sites with shared media library for mtviggys.com, mtvk.com, mtvdesi.com
- Created custom WordPress plugins and themes for clients including **AARP, Time, Samsung, RedBull, General Electric**
- Reduced latency with Node.js, Sass, obfuscation, compression which reduced bounce rate by 20%
- Implemented memcached, APC and W3 Total Cache plugin to optimize high traffic websites based on LAMP stack
- Installed Nginx as reverse proxy and load balancer in front of multiple Apache servers; using NFS over LAN
- Established IPSec Site-to-site tunnel with Cisco ASA 5505 Firewall to reduce costs in product development cycle
- Utilized Nagios to identify and resolve IT infrastructure problems
- Culminated a plan to maximize productivity for a structured software development process (DEV-Staging-Production)

9/2008 - 3/2011 **LAPIS DIGITAL / VERTIC, CTO**

NEW YORK, NY

- Decreased infrastructure provider bill by 42% through improved architecture
- Led software development (planning, architecture, implementation), QA, and operations teams to create reliable and scalable platform-based solutions
- Coached managers how to train employees to reduce employee turnover and maintained an open door policy for coworkers
- Mapped out and rolled out information security policy
- Launched and optimized websites for clients including **Nickelodeon, MTV, T-Mobile, Casio**
- Provided high availability infrastructure which could handle traffic spikes of more than 1.2 million hits per day
- Assisted CEO with fundraising and strategy as well as formulated, justified and managed operating budgets
- Coded PHP and XHTML/CSS extensively to create custom solutions, plugins and themes for WordPress
- Developed database-driven dynamic widgets using PHP, XML and MySQL and aligned code with W3C standards
- Helped building gamified app with RoR providing kids the tools and motivation to champion energy conservation
- Managed multidisciplinary, high-performance work teams during development process from pre-application information gathering through completion of projects
- Fortified and maintained internal infrastructure, administered virtual Linux and Windows servers on VMware
- Evaluated and fine-tuned backup strategy for development and quality assurance infrastructure
- Created employee security handbook and outlined internal risk management
- Documented business continuity plan as well as disaster recovery plan

2003 - 9/2008	MEDANI WEB DESIGN & IT SERVICES, Co-Founder and CTO • Provided clients with broad-based consulting services and project execution covering all aspects of IT networking and security, web design, and software development • Engaged in business planning and assisted in designing product strategy and roadmap • Initiated software projects, including generating requirements specifications and systems analysis • Led sales process including writing contracts, negotiating service agreements and acquiring new accounts • Assisted clients and partners to define and reach challenging project objectives • Collaborated with other departments to align business and strategic goals with tech-driven initiatives • Conceptualized and executed several networking and security solutions • Installed and set up MS Windows Servers and MS BackOffice products • Launched and supported MS Exchange Server along with Blackberry Enterprise Server • Developed and designed over 30 websites, managed web marketing campaigns and built hosting architecture • Programmed live ticket system in Flash/AS 2 utilizing a Java API	VIENNA, AUSTRIA
summer 2002	NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY, Network Programmer • Developed application using real-time Linux for reserving bandwidth resources in a multicast network over RSVP • Collaborated with project team to outline best practices based on results of prior work and performance objectives • Implemented, tested and monitored solutions developed by the project team	RALEIGH, NC
1997 - 2002	IBM, Systems Engineer • Supported IBM clients with project management, software implementation and application servicing • Led contract teams on installation and maintenance projects • Programmed internal static and dynamic websites used for incident tracking • Installed and configured MS Windows NT 4.0-OS/2 network linked to 165+ locations with 340+ workstations • Provided remote hardware and software 3rd level and helpdesk support for IBM point of sale and PC products, including trouble shooting, testing and system administration • Managed on-site repairs and installations for IBM products at over 400 locations throughout Austria	VIENNA, AUSTRIA
Education		
1995 - 2006	VIENNA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY Masters in Computer Science. Graduated with honors. Worked full-time while completing degree.	VIENNA, AUSTRIA
2001	Professional Engineer in Information Technology and Telecommunications	
1994 - 1995	AUSTRIAN MILITARY SERVICE Served in the Communication branch of the Austrian Army as a Radio Operator	VIENNA, AUSTRIA
Skills		
	SOFT SKILLS • Communication, project management, team leading, budget planning, strategic thinking, collaborative work, research	
	COMPUTER SCIENCE • Ubuntu, Debian, CentOS, Linux Mint, elementaryOS, MS Windows, AWS, VMware, Docker • MS BackOffice components (Exchange 2003, Active Directory, SQL Server, IIS), MS Office, LibreOffice • Blackberry Enterprise Server • Ethernet, Tokenring, NetBEUI, TCP/IP, DHCP, DNS, PPP, VPN, QoS, RSVP, ISDN, DSL • Cisco ASA 5505, m0n0wall, Nagios, DD-WRT/Tomato • Nginx, Apache, memcached, redis, NFS, APC, PHP, ASP, C#, MySQL, HTML5, CSS3/SCSS/Sass, Node.js, JavaScript, jQuery, D3, AJAX, Python, Handlebars, Bootstrap, Grunt, Gulp • WordPress (themes/templates) following lean principles, Drupal, responsive webdesign • postfix, dovecot, bind • basic knowledge of iPhone app development, Kotlin • Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Gimp, CorelDraw, Flash, ActionScript 2 • MS TSC, NetOp, VNC, SSH, SVN, Git	
	LANGUAGES • English, German	