

Robert Thomas – Industrial Designer, Rich Media and Interactive, UI/UX Design Lead

Objective Statement

To continue to broaden my experience of researching and prototyping the latest hardware and software platforms expanding my understanding of user experience as outlined in the book “The Humane Interface” and incorporating recent social media and emerging technologies.

To bring objective, profitable product strategies and concise data-driven web and mobile applications to my clients and their organizations through a deep understanding of the Humane Interface, Rich Media and Interactive Technology and current market trending.

To mentor others in the Lead UI Architect capacity while fostering a vigorous, team based collaborative learning environment.

Professional Experience:

- 15+ years Entrepreneurial Leadership in the design and production of Interactive and Rich Media Applications for Fortune 500 clients.
- Focused practice in the execution of interactive web-based and stand alone eLearning applications for business, education and training.
- Experience in all stages of project development life cycle from concept through content management and maintenance.
- 10 years success in the supervision, project management and tasking of production teams through collaboration and mentoring.
- Proven track record in fulfilling client needs for profitable technology strategies.
- 15+ years consulting and client relationship building
- 15+ years guiding and advising clients on **WCAG 2.0, W3C and Section 508** compliance as outlined in the 1986 amendment to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Information Science Skills:

- 15 years software development and project management in a LAMP/Unix environment
- 15 years adobe database-driven Flash application development
- 10+ years experience as profitable IT business owner in the development of web based business applications.
- Raised close to one million in sales and fund raising through business presentation built with the company's technology.
- 15+ years database administration skills with mySQL, PostgreSQL and Oracle.
- 10 years using **Eclipse**, Mono Develop and other CMS since 2005
- **Over 4000 hours of Agile Scrum** Team Building and Project Management including training towards Certified Scrum Master. If that were flight time it would qualify one to pilot a 747!

Employment and Consulting Experience

Senior Architect, Industrial Design Technical Lead,

4/01/13 – Present/

Art-Tronics, **Richmond, VA**. In charge of both sides of the product development spectrum - integrating technology research and new product design for local startup on the “Internet of Things” platform. Utilized LAMP background, web-based application and database development. Also led hardware development, testing and prototyping of pre-release prototypes.. Developed 3D models in Rhino then created CAD files for production using Aspire, Mach3 and other CAD/CAM software.

Oversaw all prototyping working on site in the factory with local metal fabricators, powder coating facilities and other vendors to bring one off production models to completion.

Skills Used: Adobe CS6, Unity Game Engine, Rhino 3D, Blender, Captivate, Premier Pro, Dotty, HTML, Microsoft Team Server, Microsoft Office tools, Aspire, Mach3. Used Linux command line, PHP, Perl, JSON, JQuery, Javascript, HTML5, CSS3 animations to build presentations for stakeholders

Senior UI/UX Technical Lead,

7/12/12 – 3/29/13

American Association of Airport Executives, **Alexandria, VA**. Was called in to lead transition to **Flex** based multimedia and Rich Media technology by this international provider of training for airport and transportation industry personnel. Worked with staff to upgrade the level of programming and project management including the introduction of Agile methodologies. Was instrumental in bringing several projects seriously behind schedule into deliverable status in the first month there. While assisting in the reorganization and management of those projects, successfully completed a major company application previously left unfinished by staff and outside contractors in 10% of the amount of time and running code that they had projected.

Skills Used: Adobe CS6, **Eclipse**, **Flex**, Flash **Actionscript 3**, XML, CSS, External JavaScript functions, Unity Game Engine, Rhino 3D, Captivate, Premier Pro, Dotty, HTML, Microsoft Team Server Microsoft Office.

Flex 4.5 /Flash/PureMVC Developer, Senior UI Lead

6/22/11 – 4/20/2012

H&R Block, **Kansas City, MO**. Used **Eclipse** and **Flex 4.5** to add extensible business logic, application development and design skills to a new application featuring a PureMVC framework using .NET webservice. Allows users to video chat with their tax professional through a new social media interface, "Block Live". Supplied Technical Lead and **Agile** practices as well as expertise in process flow, software life cycle and UX leadership to create a public facing Rich Media version of HRB's current online tax program used by their tax professionals nationwide.

Acted as technical lead for the complete refactoring of the UI / Rich Media effort. This represented a complete visual overhaul of the entire site which leveraged **Flex** skinnable component technology to create a abstraction layer for UI that allows thematic changes to the application without touching running code thereby avoiding costly release delays and multiple deployments.

Provided the creative direction to produce an interactive tutorial video that allowed new hires and support staff to quickly experience the "end-to-end" flow of the entire Block Live application. Created **Flex** interface using scientific diagram modeling software to generate an interactive, searchable flow chart that allows "deep-linking" directly to appropriate sections of the video.

Skills Used: Adobe CS5, **Flex**, Flash **Actionscript 3**, Camtasia, Captivate, Premier Pro, Dotty, HTML, CSS, Microsoft Team Foundation Server, Ant, Microsoft Office and Visio.

3D Design Consultant, Owner

12/12/10 – 6/15/11

Art-Tronics – Owner, Project Manager for web-based 3D design and "digital manufacturing" techniques to design a series of enclosures for this Richmond, VA based manufacturer of electronic peripherals. Complete design from concept presentation for focus group to marketing collateral. Used Rhino, Maya, Flash and Photoshop to build web-based "virtual design space" for collaboration with fabricator. Both kickoff runs sold out immediately due to viral, web based marketing campaign based on the 3D renderings generated as part of the manufacturing process. These were shipped worldwide as far away as Japan, Lithuania, Italy, Spain and France as well as all over the US.

Skills Used: Flash **Actionscript 3**, Rhino 3D, Industrial Design, CAD manufacturing, entrepreneurial experience.

Flex/Flash 3D Specialist, Interactive Consultant

7/12/10 – 11/15/10

AT&T's Global Network Operations Center **Chicago and Parsippany, NJ** and Global Security Threat Command Center. As analyst, worked with their "**Cyber Swat Team**" creating interactive 3D portals for the global monitoring of threat advisories from thousands of sources worldwide. Used Flash, **ActionScript 3, Flex** Builder, Rhino and LAMP technology to produce a seamless cross-platform development environment. Provided Waterfall and Agile project management to team in terms of Rich Media technology adoption and Best Practices.

Skills Used: Flash **Actionscript 3, Eclipse** , Javascript, jQuery (created drag n drop menus for assembling daily reports), MySQL, XML, PHP, SVN, Microsoft Office and Visio.

Technical Lead, Rich Media Interactive Consultant

4/26/10 - 7/01/10

TelaDoc.com **Dallas, TX** Medical Appointment and Scheduling Company

As outside consultant created "**Talk to Doc**" **Video Chat Application** that allows TeleDoc customers to have an online, live consultation with their physician from anywhere in the world. Features included the ability to snap photographs of patient conditions for visual inspection and confirmation by the physician which are then incorporated into the patient's digital medical records. Provided project management and development skills for the implementation of Flash, Wowza Media Server and **Actionscript 3** and .NET technology to integrate the client's JAVA based medical API with this video application.

Skills Used: Flash **Actionscript**, CSS

Lead Flash Developer

11/1/09 - 4/24/10

Speek.com **MacLean, VA** Social Media and Business Communications Company

Duties Interactive **Whiteboard** (Whyteboard) This White Board application utilized the highest level of the technology loop in **ActionScript 3**, by pushing the envelope with Wowza (Flash) Media Server. This app allowed multiple users to make notes, flow charts, draw diagrams and otherwise interact in a global "playspace". Provided interactive development and project management skills to the client for the implementation of the appropriate of Rich Media technology to allow immediate adoption using Microsoft Office and Visio to implement Best Practices.

Skills Used: Flash **Actionscript**, Eclipse, HTML, CSS, PHP

Designer/Developer Web Enhancements Team

7/15/08 - 2/7/09

Capital One, LLC **MacLean, Richmond, VA** World's Leading Credit Card Company

As an in-house consultant my work on this team encompassed a range of duties, from interfacing with client expectations to working with BAS testing strategies for each Line of Business. Supplied business expertise necessary to expand the language capabilities of this "**AgileFall**" team to coordinate with ever increasing demands of the customers and LOB's resulting in millions of dollars worth of business for the company.

Skills Used: Flash **Actionscript**, HTML, PHP, jQuery

Flash Developer, Alternative Markets Architect

1/29/07 - 6/15/08

GroundWork Design, Inc. **Richmond, VA** Rich Media Application Development

Used Flash, Premier Pro and other multimedia technology in conjunction with my technical and entrepreneurial leadership experience to leverage GWD's Rich Media Application technology into a six figure joint venture for health care industry - a \$2.2 trillion dollar market. Also opened marketing channels in the Hospitality, Golf, Resort and Museum industries with a potential revenue stream of over \$100 million dollars. Pilots initiated for the Richmond Holocaust Museum, Richmond, VA, the Casemate Museum at Fort Monroe, Hampton VA and the Hermitage Museum and Gardens, Norfolk, VA.

Skills Used: Flash **Actionscript 2 & 3**, XML

Founder, Managing Partner**9/2003 - 1/15/07**

Klik Home, LLC **Richmond, VA** Online Furniture Design, Retail and Manufacturing
Founded the very first online furnishings B2C in 2003 where the customer can design their own furniture piece and have it shipped within 1 week. Used computer programming and 3D design tools to automate the order processing for the above site. Managed staff of designers, programmers and craftsmen to provide project management for this startup.

CEO, Founder, Lead Developer**1/1/00 - 7/1/03**

Vision InfoSystems, Inc. **Richmond, VA** Web-based Business Applications for the Real Estate Industry. Founded firm providing web-based business automation solutions and technical project management to the Realty industry saving Realtors thousands of dollars of wasted time per month. Formed joint venture with Richmond Association of Realtors to access their MLS database. Was one of 5 winners of the 2002 "Capital Stars" award from the Venture Forum.

Skills Used: Used Flash **Actionscript** as a Rapid Prototyping tool to build business applications for the Real Estate and Business development sector, was chosen by BNI as CRM of choice for several of the largest regions in the US, featured on BNI's Success Stories for business acquired during the first 6 months as member.

Director of Software Development**1/24/00 - 12/30/00**

TeeTimes.com Online Golf Scheduling **Williamsburg, VA**
Was first to institute the use of Flash 4 in conjunction with an Oracle database. As the chief Technical Lead I hired an Oracle DBA to input over 19,000 different variables necessary to book a tee time online. As a result the company was bought by international venture capital firm. After sale of company, worked as outside consultant to integrate the ERP models with its partner Golfnet to provide a complete Fulfillment Process Tracking application based on Flash.

Skills Used: Pioneered first documented use of Macromedia Flash (later Adobe) to build business applications, Perl, Oracle 9i, MySQL, PostgreSQL to build online golf tee time booking web site.

Senior Network Engineer**3/15/99 - 11/30/99**

Department of Social Services, State of Virginia **Richmond, VA**
Developed Linux-based interactive web applications for 10,000+ DSS employees and over 167 Regional offices, statewide. Was responsible for providing technical project management and direction to programming junior staff for the implementation of automating and maintaining the email system. Implemented this through the use of Perl sockets to connect to an Oracle 8i back end via the web interface and featuring RPC (Remote Process Control). Utilized HTML forms creation, Perl, CGI, X-Windows graphics, TCP/IP, PPP and Linux server setup and programming.

Skills Used: Perl, Linux / LAMP environment, Open Source networking tools to create Remote Process Control to refactor email for DSS' for the entire state consisting of 649 field offices and a 10,000 user base. Wrote process control monitoring system "Big Sister" using Perlgraph.

Education

Pratt Institute – Brooklyn, NY

Bachelor of Industrial Design Degree, 1984 - President's List, Dean's List

University of Nebraska – Lincoln, NE

Bachelor of Fine Arts candidate – Major Sculpture and Photography, Minor Figure Drawing, Ceramics. Transferred to Pratt in Senior year.

Continuing Studies, Teaching

Virginia Commonwealth University – Richmond, VA

Structured Programming – VCU post graduate non-matriculated student
Graduate Communication Design Workshop VCU

Adjunct Instructor, Furniture Design,

VCU Department of Crafts and Material Studies 2005

Licensed Instructor, American Radio Relay League,

Instructor for Tech and General Amateur Radio License Classes

AWARDS:

2010 – Rob's "**Beaglebrick Emergency Communications Platform**" embedded Linux, Ham Radio hardware and software mashup was awarded Texas Instruments Research and Design Grant for Senior Project Program Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. Presented at Dayton, OH Technology Festival and written up in **Wired Magazine** as "iPad for Hams".

2003 – **Vision InfoSystems** awarded grant from Virginia Center for Innovative Technology for interactive application development in the field of building maintenance and automation, Realty sales application and Realty data management automation.

2002 – Rob's company **Vision InfoSystems** presented with the Capital Stars Award for excellence in corporate funding by the Richmond Venture Forum

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