

Russell Thackston

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Summary

A twenty-year veteran of the IT industry with extensive practical and teaching experience. Research specializations include cloud computing, software process, effort estimation, and one-person software companies. Currently employed as an Assistant Professor within Georgia Southern University's Department for Information Technology.

Experience

Practical experience as a System Architect in software design, product development, implementation, training, and support. Broad industry experience including retail, multi-national manufacturing, government web-portal, financial services, and educational environments. Project history includes mobile applications, gaming, commercial "shrink-wrap," corporate, e-government, and custom software. Roles include system architect, lead developer, project manager, database designer/administrator, business analyst, quality assurance analyst, technical support, and training.

University teaching experience includes introductory courses in Information Technology and Information Systems; junior-level web application design and development; senior-level survey of management information systems; and specialized computer science courses such as software process and data structures. Roles include Instructor, graduate teaching assistant, and research assistant.

Topics of experience include Cloud Computing; Computational Chemistry; Software Process; Effort Estimation; Application Development/Programming; Mobile Application Development; Test-Driven Development; Systems Analysis and Design; Object-Oriented Design and Development; Database Systems Design/Administration; Application Security; Data Communications; Human-Computer Interaction; eCommerce/Retail; Game Development; and Project Management.

Research specialties include Computational Chemistry, Cloud Computing, Software Process, Effort Estimation, and microISVs (one-person, bootstrapped software companies).

Education

PhD, Computer Science and Software Engineering, Auburn University, Auburn, AL. Dissertation topic: Software Effort Estimation. Graduated August 2013. (4.0 GPA).

MS/CIS, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA. Graduated 2006. (4.0 GPA).

BBA/MIS, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA. Graduated 1996. (3.6 GPA).

Publications/ Presentations

(Refereed)

Russell Thackston, David Umphress, "Micropreneurs: The Rise of the MicroISV," IT Professional, March/April 2013 (expected). IEEE computer Society Digital Library. IEEE Computer Society, <<http://doi.ieeecomputersociety.org/10.1109/MITP.2012.28>>

Russell Thackston, David Umphress, "Individual Effort Estimation: Not Just for Teams Anymore," CrossTalk – The Journal of Defense Software Engineering, May/June 2012. <<http://www.crosstalkonline.org/storage/issue-archives/2012/201205/201205-Thackston.pdf>>

Jonathan Lartigue, Russell Thackston, Prateek Hejmady, "Basic 2D Graphics and Animation Concepts for iPhone/iPad Games," 11 March 2011. ACM/SIGCSE workshop co-presenter. <<http://www.sigcse.org/sigcse2011>>

(Non-refereed)

Russell Thackston, "SISE: Approaching Software Effort Estimates from the Other (Simpler) Direction," 2012 Graduate Engineering Research Showcase poster presentation. <<http://www.eng.auburn.edu/organizations/SGCoE/>>

Teaching Experience

Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA (August 2013 - Current)

Assistant Professor, Department of Information Technology

- [IT 1130] Introduction to Information Technology
- [IT 3130] Web Application Design and Development I
- [IT 5236] Interactive Web Design and Development

Auburn University, Auburn, AL (January 2009 - August 2013)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Comp. Science and Software Engineering

- [COMP 1000] Personal Computer Applications
- [COMP 5700] Software Process

Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA (August 2007 - December 2007)

Temporary Instructor, Department of Information Systems

- [CISM 2530] Advanced Business Applications
- [CISM 4130] Management Information Systems

Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA (October 1994 - March 1996)

Staff Trainer, Department of Human Resources

- Developed and taught basic computer skills classes

Southern Center for Continuing Ed., Statesboro, GA (August 1993 - July 1995)

Instructor

- Developed and taught basic computer skills classes

Professional Experience

Self-Employed, Independent Software Consultant (August 1994 - Present)

Consultant

- Advise clients on business solutions design, systems development, and web design/development/SEO.

Alabama Cooperative Extension (September 2010 - August 2013)

Application Architect

- Designed, implemented, and supported Body Quest educational iPad application, incorporating multi-touch, interactive learning, audiovisual, and game elements.
<<http://www.aces.edu/family-health/health-nutrition/bodyquest/>>

Total System Services, Columbus, GA

Senior Client-Server Software Analyst (April 2008 - June 2009)

- Directed the technical rollout of company-wide IT portfolio management software.

Senior MIS Analyst (March 1996 - June 1998)

- Performed full life-cycle development and support for corporate project tracking, data warehousing software, and automation/data validation tools.

Daugherty Business Solutions, Atlanta, GA (*December 2002 - January 2008*)

Consultant

- Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority – Engineered statewide, account management web portal and retail integration web services.
- The Home Depot (Mobile Ordering) – Developed international mobile inventory management and ordering software.
- State of Georgia/Department of Human Resources – Developed J2EE web application for statewide incident reporting.
- State of Georgia/Georgia Technology Authority – Transformed on-line survey tool, including design, development, and implementation support.
- The Home Depot (Point of Sale) – Developed SOAP/XML-based web services for credit card transaction processing.

Lectra Systems, Marietta, GA (*November 2000 - December 2002*)

Senior Analyst

- Performed full life-cycle development and support for Textile Product Design Management application in use by clients in more than 100 countries.

The Home Depot, Atlanta, GA (*June 1998 - November 2000*)

Senior Systems Engineer

- Technical lead for 15 member Home Depot development team charged with designing and producing a new Java-based point-of-sale application for use in 2,000+ stores in 5 countries.

GSU Computer Services, Statesboro, GA (*July 1992 - October 1994*)

Hardware/Software Technician

- Provided hardware and software support campus-wide and advised various departments on automation technologies.

USAF, U.S.A.F. Academy, Colorado Springs, CO (*January 1988 - January 1992*)

U.S. Air Force Security Police, Law Enforcement Specialist

- Performed law enforcement duties.

Achievements

- *Veteran of Desert Storm*
- *Awarded U.S. Air Force Achievement Medal*

Professional

- Association of Computing Machinery member (www.acm.org)
- Open source software developer and product manager
 - (sourceforge.net/projects/jsimplex)
- MicroISV Research Alliance founder and manager (microisvresearch.org)

Service

- RailsBridge volunteer (rubysavannah.com)
- Council of Engineering Graduate Students, Auburn University, founding member
(<http://www.eng.auburn.edu/organizations/cegs/graduate-engineering-research-showcase-2013>)
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Georgia Southern University, 2007
- Open source author of JSimpleX, Visual XSL Transformation Tool
(<http://jsimplex.sourceforge.net>)