

# Résumé of Benjamin Dekarske

## Overview

- Well-established technical expert in browser-based/mobile/cloud applications, biometrics-enabled solutions, self-service kiosks.
- Demonstrated effectiveness as manager, team leader, and individual contributor.
- Experience with leading small-, large-, and enterprise-scale projects.
- Dedicated, highly motivated, self-starter, recognized leader.
  
- Previous holder of U.S. Government security clearance.
- References available upon request.

## Technical Skills Summary

### **Domain Expertise / Solutions**

- Browser-based Applications
- SaaS/Cloud Applications
- Internet / Web Portals
- Biometrics
- Encryption / PKI
- Smart Cards
- Self-Service Kiosks

### **Programming Languages & Tools**

- Java / Spring / JSP / Servlets
- .NET (C#, VB, ASPX, Web services)
- Python
- iBatis / myBatis / Hibernate
- XML / XSL / XSLT / SOAP
- HTML / XHTML / CSS / JavaScript / JQuery
- Actionscript / Flex
- C / C++
- Groovy / Grails
- PHP

### **Databases/Persistence**

- Oracle
- SQL Server
- MySQL
- Ehcache
- Redis

### **Software / System Architecture**

- Oracle ERP
- Tomcat, Weblogic, Websphere
- IIS
- Amazon Web Services (Beanstalk,EC2,S3)
- Jenkins / Maven / Nexus
- SVN / TFS / Git / CVS / VSS
- LDAP / Active Directory
- Eclipse, IntelliJ, Flex Builder
- JIRA, SharePoint
- Adobe Flash
- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Acrobat

### **Hardware**

- PCs
- Servers
- Kiosks
- Biometric Scanners (finger, face, iris)

### **Operating Systems**

- Windows (all since '95)
- Mac OS (all since 10.0)
- iOS (all since 4.0)
- Unix / Linux

## **Project Experience**

### **Jostens, Yearbook, 1/2015 - Current**

- Senior manager responsible for yearbook IT effort. Managing a team of 25 architects, developers, project managers, business analysts, testers - a mix of full-time employees and contractors, both on-site and remote. Responsible for overall software and architecture vision, collaborating with the team to find solutions, performing design reviews, mentoring and assessing performance of personnel, interacting with upper management, meeting with customers and vendors, monitoring budget spend and project progress, delegating when necessary, leading by example.

### **Jostens, Shutterfly, 6/2015 - 1/2016**

- Senior architect/manager responsible for API supporting order management and manufacturing from Shutterfly/TinyPrints. Role involves overall architecture, managing development work/deliverables of a team of six (developers, testers, business analyst), interacting with stakeholders inside and outside the company at multiple levels and multiple physical locations.

### **Jostens, Monarch, 5/2015 - 12/2015**

- Senior architect/manager responsible for API and manufacturing process supporting a cloud-based Adobe InDesign product used to create yearbook content. Role involves overall architecture, managing development work/deliverables of a team of four (developers, testers, business analyst), interacting with stakeholders inside and outside the company at multiple levels and multiple physical locations.

### **Jostens, Mainframe Migration, 4/2012 - 4/2015**

- Senior architect/manager responsible for migration of the yearbook business from a legacy mainframe platform to a browser-based application/Oracle ERP. Responsible for managing a team of up to 15 - including other architects, developers, testers, business analysts. Delivered architectural guidance and documentation, performed code reviews, estimated/planned work, interacted with project management and executive leadership, formulated change management to stakeholders (located at remote manufacturing locations). Impacted all aspects of the business including contracts, customer and sales rep interaction, manufacturing, shipping, billing, and reporting. Project budget worth several million dollars, delivered successfully and on time, with no adverse business impact.

### **Jostens, Memory Book, 11/2010 - 1/2015**

- Enterprise architect in IT, responsible for creating/promoting best practices in the organization. Piloted and championed JIRA to project management as a tasking tool for the development and support organizations. Worked with infrastructure teams to improve/modernize deployment tools and processes using Hudson/Jenkins. Developed best

practice for interacting seamlessly with load balancing hardware. Developed process for secure password management across the IT organization.

**Jostens, Yearbook Avenue, 9/2006 - 4/2012**

- Lead developer/architect of a browser-based yearbook creation portal. Developed site from a small pilot to a mature, high-throughput, high-availability, industry-leading platform delivering hundreds of millions of dollars in annual business. Responsible for directing work of both employees and contractors, numbering up to ten, in development and support roles. Performed code reviews, managed deployments, lead stand-up meetings, maintained documentation, performance-tuned database queries. Responsible for technical interviews of new staff and contractors. Responsible for development scope and long-term planning with business and executive team. Lead offsite training sessions with customers. Submitted patent for yearbook creation process with biometric capability. Used Java, Spring, JSP, ASP, ActionScript, Flex, Python, Groovy, Grails, Servlets, Oracle, SQL Server.

**Unisys Corporation (Public Sector), Registered Traveler, 11/2004 - 01/2006**

- Developer/architect of the first-generation Registered Traveler solution, responsible for verification kiosk design and implementation as well as pre-enrollment/marketing website design and implementation. Used C#.NET, ASP.NET, Flash, Web services.

**Unisys Corporation (Transportation), Cargo Portal Services, 08/2002 - 01/2006**

- Lead developer for the team that designed and built the world's first multi-carrier cargo internet portal, integrating six major airline cargo carriers with one common front-end. Responsible for UI design, usability, and implementation - used HTML, Javascript, JSP, XML parsing, Java EJB. Also responsible for the data architecture and SQL Server database administration tasks.

- Later tasked with on-going support, light product management duties, leading a team of three developers - interacted with customers to define new change requests, identify issues, and assign developers to address both.

**Unisys Corporation (Public Sector), US-VISIT Exit Kiosk, 09/2003 - 01/2006**

- Lead developer for the team that designed and implemented the U.S. Department of Homeland Security US-VISIT Exit kiosk / handheld solution. Responsible for kiosk integration of biometric devices, message encryption and transmission to central server, installation programs, configuration management, and associated documentation. Designed UI and underlying interfaces to biometric devices. Worked on-site with government customers during initial deployment to ensure error-free operation. Lead multiple kiosk deployments to airports, interfacing with Customs & Border Protection as well as various airport agencies. Supported project as subject matter expert. Used Java, HTML, Flash, C#.NET, VB.NET, Web services, Installshield.

**Unisys Corporation (Transportation), US-ACCESS / CitizenAccess, 07/2003 - 11/2003**

- Developer for a government-funded pilot project to connect an airline's reservation system and kiosk with a biometric-enabled customs and border crossing clearance system. Tasked with

architectural direction and programming as well as database administration. Project was halted due to airline customer's bankruptcy. Used HTML, Java, EJB, JSP, Javascript, Oracle.

Unisys Corporation (Transportation), APPS2, 06/2002 - 08/2002

- Developer for APPS2 project, worked with members of the team to produce standardized screens and menus across the product. Project wasn't completed due to a shift in corporate strategy. Used HTML, Java, EJB, JSP, Javascript.

**Michigan Tech Lode, Online Editor, 10/2000 - 05/2002**

- Designer/developer of the first online website for the University's premiere student-run newspaper. Limited editorial duties. Won several collegiate awards for design and innovation. Used HTML, PHP, MySQL.

**Michigan Tech Telecommunications, Senior Consultant, 08/1999 - 05/2002**

- Started as a junior technician and later promoted to senior consultant - primary duties were troubleshooting campus network connections, interacting with network engineers and customer service, mentoring and managing new staff members.

- Built a browser-based trouble-ticket system, viewable by customers to see how their problem is progressing through the system. Used significant PC hardware/software/network configuration skills, HTML, PHP, MySQL.

**Wausau Benefits, Internet Developer, 05/2000 - 08/2001**

- Consulted for this health insurance administration company, which was at the time recently spun-off from the larger and more dominant Liberty Mutual. Developed a distinct online presence, and also a unique and usable intranet. Interacted with business stakeholders to gather requirements. Mentored other developers in leading-edge web technologies (of the time). Used HTML, Javascript, PHP, MySQL, SQL Server.

- Aided design and began development of their next-generation health insurance administration web portal. Used Java and SQL Server.

**Northland Cranberries, IT Staff, 11/1998 - 08/2000**

- Junior member of a small technical team tasked with support of 300 workstations and their configurations for this major cranberry grower, based in Wisconsin. Learned many operating systems and their configuration intricacies. Became exposed to and familiar with a range of network technologies.

## **Education**

**Master of Science in Software Engineering, May 2008**

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, MN

**Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, May 2002**

Michigan Technological University, Houghton MI, Graduated Cum Laude