

DENNIS SLADE JR.

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EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

- **Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science, [Vassar College, NY USA](#)**
- 25+ years implementing web, mobile, and desktop apps (B2C and B2B)
- 20+ years Java, React, Angular, PHP, Ruby, SQL, and bash development
- 13+ years AWS/cloud application development
- 10+ years implementing secure cloud-based login authentication methods and security remediation
- 6+ years educational technology development
- 6+ years Agile (scrum) methodologies

OVERVIEW / METHODOLOGIES

- Deep commitment to mobile-first, customer-first, test-driven, internationalization-aware development
- Engineering organization transformation through adoption of proven best practices, CI/CD enhancement, large (400+ endpoint) API microservice refactoring, robust/defensive coding, SDET automated testing, performance testing, and open source standards
- Expert analysis and resolution of difficult technical issues in high available, large-scale (100,000+ DAU) full-stack enterprise systems, with emphasis on architecting secure, performant solutions
- Tech industry leadership emphasizing high quality communication and documentation, practical process improvement, and active mentoring

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

[Scholastic Inc](#) • Manager, Software Engineering (SDM Tech Lead) • New York, NY

[Dec. 2016 to Jul. 2023]

- ♦ BookFlix 2.0: Led 12-person team in the complete analysis, architectural design, rewrite, and successful rollout (with pilot) of our division's most profitable product in 6 months, with 0% downtime post-deployment. 100,000+ daily users streaming videos and accessing epub's. • *Java Spring Boot; APIs; Angular5; MySQL; Amazon AWS; git/Bitbucket* •
- ♦ Tech Lead for Scholastic Digital Manager (SDM), a middleware platform essential for authentication, security, and COPPA compliance of Digital Education products and their users. A vital client service for 3 eCommerce sites, 28 Classroom Magazine sites, and 30+ Digital Education products (all customer-facing, 1,000,000+ staff/parents/students/children), SDM required uptime >99.9% in production and development environments. Uptime included major upgrades, dozens of releases, and multiple security remediations. • *Java Spring Boot; APIs; React; legacy AngularJS; Aurora RDS MySQL; Amazon AWS; containers; Jira; git/Bitbucket; Confluence* •
- ♦ Managed API team through large scale code refactoring (430 endpoints); adoption of automated testing (0% to 40% coverage in first year) and performance testing; implementation of EdTech industry standards (OneRoster, LTI); integration with Google Classroom, ClassLink, and Clever API 3.0; and major Spring Boot, Java, RDS, and Redis upgrades
- ♦ Oversaw planning and implementation of new React-based UI for teacher and student digital management portals (1,000+ institutional customers; 100,000+ weekly users worldwide)
- ♦ Coordinated dependencies and API integrations with 15+ teams domestically (IAM identity management, Oracle order processing, Salesforce/MDM, eCommerce, Classroom Magazines, Literacy Applications, Security/ISM, Systems Lifecycle Engineering, Tech Ops/Change Management, QA and automation, Book Fairs, et.al.) and internationally (Mary Glasgow Magazines; Scholastic in UK, Middle East, and Asia).
- ♦ Worked directly with the Executive Directors of Digital Education Engineering, Heads of Education Engineering, and Directors of Quality Engineering on product direction and production issue resolutions.
- ♦ Before, during, and post-COVID managed 3 Agile teams with combined 25 staff (onshore, offshore, FTEs, consultants) across 11 countries and spanning 12 time zones (staff retention rate greater than 90%). Evangelized for higher coworker safety and better cultural understanding inside teams.

Social Career Page • Technical Lead/Founder • San Diego, CA

[Jan. 2014 to Nov. 2016]

- ♦ Worked directly with business founders to analyze application requirements and deliver systems implementations. Implemented multiple integration points with third-party providers Zoho CRM and Mandrill. Reworked MySQL queries to decrease overall database load and increase scalability. Made the site "Production Ready" by making all pages and forms fully responsive; eliminating unhandled front-end exceptions and errors; updating third-party libraries; and removing insecure, development-only pages. Created secure administration tool for the creation, editing and manipulation of customer data and permissions. • *PHP, MySQL, jQuery, Bootstrap/CSS, git* •

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Think Deep Consulting • Consultant (Independent Contractor) • San Diego, CA

[Sep. 2012 to Nov. 2016]

- ♦ Built an art fair management and invoicing application from the ground up using PHP frameworks and custom code. Performed full database ETL from FileMaker Pro to MySQL. Application features included role-based authentication with encrypted passwords, server-side generation of invoices and reports (PDF and CSV formats), list filtering using multiple search criteria and wildcarding, and data entry with autocomplete. Wrote custom bash scripts to provide automated nightly backups. • *PHP, MySQL, git, CodeIgniter, FileMaker Pro* •
- ♦ For a small non-profit company, performed maintenance, bug fixes and feature enhancements on a FileMaker 13 database with 9 tables, 13 relationships, 85 scripts, and 130 layouts. Added error handling and messaging to several user-facing scripts when data was missing or records were not found. Conducted parallel testing, and cut over to the converted database with minimal downtime. Work done without the consultation of previous developers of the system. • *FileMaker Pro* •

Mirum / Digitaria / J. Walter Thompson • Consultant (onsite through [Outsource Technical](#)) • San Diego, CA

[Aug. 2013 to Jan. 2014]

- ♦ For a nationally known education-training firm, created a CLI bash script process to extract remote MSSQL and Oracle data into MySQL. Scripts were designed to run manually or in a crontab, and to pull in entire datasets or just data that had changed recently. Worked closely with front-end designers, QA staff, and dev-ops team to ensure successful releases. • *bash, MySQL, MSSQL, Oracle* •

DeNA / ngmoco:) / Freeverse • CMS Tools & Backend Developer • New York, NY

[Nov. 2010 to Aug. 2012]

- ♦ Created CMS tools to manipulate string, image and story content for multiple iOS/Android game apps. The tools were used at 3 sites in all environments (development through production) by dozens of developers, testers, managers and content providers. Features included JSON importing and exporting; direct uploading of versioned exports to Amazon S3; and editing and previewing localization strings in multiple languages. Designed and implemented process to seamlessly preview art assets in all CMS environments, significantly easing the updating of art assets throughout the development lifecycle. Used EC2 and RightScale to create and manage backend servers. Identified, consolidated, and shut down underused servers, saving thousands of dollars in monthly EC2 fees. • *PHP, Ruby on Rails, Mongo, Amazon AWS, JSON, memcached* •

Ogilvy & Mather • Consultant (onsite through [Boyle Software](#)) • New York, NY

[Feb. 2010 to Oct. 2010]

- ♦ Completely overhauled the customer registration system used by 50+ employees and 10,000+ external users worldwide. Features included role-based permission editing with LDAP integration through Java-based API services; a customer-facing information collection system to record registration requests; workflow queues for approving/rejecting collected requests; and a full suite of mini-apps which configured the GUI and back-end behavior of the collection system. Converted database schema and data from PL/SQL to MySQL, improving performance and decreasing maintenance costs. Imposed a strict MVC separation of code for easier maintainability and future platform portability. • *PHP, JavaScript, jQuery, MySQL, Oracle* •

Money-Media / Financial Times • Senior PHP Developer • New York, NY

[Nov. 2007 to Oct. 2009]

- ♦ Developed and maintained code for customer-facing sites accessed daily by 50,000+ customers (total worldwide customer base 200,000+), and internal CMS and customer fulfillment systems used daily by 60+ employees. Worked directly with C-Level executives and all departments - Editorial, Marketing, Sales, Customer Service, IT - analyzing business requirements and delivering subsequent systems implementations. Managed object-oriented code base of 16,000+ source files and hundreds of code packages covering 3 daily publications, 2 weekly publications, and 3 main web applications. • *PHP, MySQL, jQuery* •