John Z Black

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Screencastify
Director of Cyber Security

Nov. 2020 – June. 2023
Remote

- Spearheaded the creation and implementation of a comprehensive security practice at Screencastify, significantly enhancing the company's security posture through strategic planning, in-depth analysis, and collaboration with stakeholders across the organization.
- Led a wide array of security initiatives, including security awareness training, phishing simulations, ransomware protection, attack surface reduction, and improved identity and access management, directly contributing to the robust defense against evolving cyber threats.
- Managed internal and external penetration testing, vulnerability scans, and the drafting and implementation of information security policies, ensuring compliance with legal standards and safeguarding company and user data against breaches.
- Established a proactive public security presence, handling security communications with the media and responding to information security assessments and audits, fostering transparency and trust with users and external partners.

Praxent
Senior Software Engineer & Architect

Dec. 2014 – Nov. 2020
Austin TX, Remote

- Diversified technical expertise, mastering a wide range of technologies including Node, Python, React, and cloud architecture, which positioned me as a key contributor to high-profile and innovative projects.
- Played a crucial role in enhancing the cybersecurity posture of the company and its clients, leveraging my deep interest and expertise in cybersecurity to implement robust security measures and protect digital assets.
- Evolved from a backend development specialist to a leader and mentor, guiding development teams through complex projects with a focus on continuous learning, innovation, and adherence to tight deadlines.
- Demonstrated exceptional adaptability and leadership, significantly contributing to Praxent's reputation as an innovator by successfully merging technical acumen with strong leadership to deliver outstanding results.

Freelance Software Engineer
Self-Employed / Contract

Jan. 1998 – Apr. 2015
Remote

- Managed a diverse portfolio of design projects, including 3D animation, video editing, and print and packaging design, demonstrating a wide-ranging creative skill set and attention to detail.
- Led the development of custom e-commerce platforms and social networks, highlighting strong technical capabilities and a knack for pioneering green-field software projects.
- Established a full-service web solution business, delivering comprehensive packages that included hosting, system design, custom development, and modern, responsive front-end designs, showcasing versatility, entrepreneurial spirit, and a client-focused approach.

Brown and Miller Direct
Sr. Web Developer

Jun. 2006 – Feb. 2010
Cleveland OH, Remote

- Served as lead developer for a wide array of web projects at an agency, including in-house and client projects.
- Played a pivotal role in creating innovative online platforms, such as survey sites for car dealerships, social networks, and dating sites, showcasing a capacity for creative and technical problem-solving.
- Lead developer of FarmersOnly.com, one of the agency's largest projects, contributing significantly to its growth and success by optimizing user experience and membership features.
- Transitioned to a contractor role upon relocating, maintaining a key position in further developing and optimizing FarmersOnly.com.