

## So who is this guy?

**I am a generalist.** I can't help it. This is my biggest strength and my most significant weakness. I'm interested in almost everything and keep finding that whatever I happen to be working on gets to be more fascinating as I learn about it. Because of interests in many things though, I've never become the world expert on anything. I have to live with that, and so do you. I will never invent the fusion-powered, antigravity, stereophonic, hamster-flavored toothbrush. You will never be able to buy one, and I will never be famous. Dang.

**Given this**, though, I do know a lot about a lot of things. I have a B.A. in English, and a hybrid B.S. in physics and computer science. I like looking under rocks. I know how to read, to think and to write. I'm good at seeing patterns in situations and in data. I classify and categorize. I summarize. I abstract, and I can look ahead, to see where inconsistencies will surface and where shortcomings will reveal themselves. And I know why doing it the right way will eventually win. I pay attention to details.

**I get** bugged when I don't know something, and dig into it. Good enough isn't, though sometimes it is (learning perspective *is* important). I hate being wrong (hate it) but use mistakes as a learning tool. Learning is my life. I can't help it.

**I've programmed** in a variety of languages and environments.

**For instance**, Object Pascal, C, COBOL, Modula-2, VBScript, VB.Net, and so on. I taught my self 8086 assembly language just because I wanted to know how it worked. I'm currently learning and working in Ruby and Ruby on Rails. I know what object orientation is and why it is and what it is for, and also what requirements and specifications and project plans are, and what they are for. And the other forms of documentation, of course.

**I know** that code tells "how", but that documentation in its various forms holds the keys, the "what" and "why" that are the core of any system, but that are all too often dismissed or ignored. I've seen projects fail when everyone "who knew better" wouldn't listen.

**Communication** really *is* important.

**I've learned** that there are no shortcuts.

**I spent** years working for the State of Washington, getting some good things done, slowly, but finally had to give up. In frustration. Budget cuts killed my job, and sure, I could have sat there for several long months with nothing at all to do, until they found another chair for me to sit in.

**But I couldn't** stand that, sitting there with nothing to do. So I quit to work on some personal projects. I've got one book almost done, with ideas for several more. I designed and made backpacking equipment, hiked, did more digital photography, but most fun of all, learned more about web development and the newest web technologies.

**Agile**, test-driven development, graphic design, advanced CSS techniques, source control using Subversion, Ruby, Ruby on Rails, MySQL, JavaScript and AJAX.

**I believe** that strength comes not only from talent but from diversity, inside and outside one's own head. I respect everyone who works hard and in good faith and has an opinion, and have absolutely no trouble at all in changing my mind to fit the facts. I can get along.

**I have** some code samples, and some writing samples including internal program documentation, a short user manual or two, newspaper stories, narratives, and samples of a volunteer publication I've edited. And photos on my personal web site, which is a good place to see how the state of my art works. Both my business and personal sites are written in Ruby on Rails.

**What I want** is to make a difference working for a company that is making a difference. And I want to have a lot of fun doing it, designing web sites and developing them using Ruby on Rails.

**Please** let me know if we have something to talk about.

**My resume** is next.

## Dave Sailer

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## OBJECTIVE

I'm a web developer and designer coming from a programming background. I like solving problems: gathering requirements, doing analysis and design, coding, writing, editing and publishing. I want to have fun doing this with good people at a good company. And I want to work with Ruby on Rails.

- **Software should serve.** I'm a passionate advocate of efficiency and automation.
- **I believe** in giving customers the power to do what they want to do. I believe that usability contributes directly to success.
- **I believe** in small, focused feature sets and a flexible, agile approach to problems and solutions.
- **I'm a** self-starter and a perfectionist, but still a pragmatist.
- **I believe** in cooperation, defined processes, tight documentation, clear communication, creativity, and good will.
- **I'm smart enough** and well-educated enough to know that I'm not the best at anything, but I keep trying anyway.
- **I believe** that the best way to solve a problem is to collect evidence and identify the cause, then make a plan and test the plan. Then solve the problem. Then prove you've solved it.
- **I disagree with** attitudes like "we've always done it that way" and "if it ain't broke, don't fix it".
- **I agree** with Joel Spolsky, Rob Walling, Kathy Sierra, Steve Yegge and many others who know that the best working conditions plus the best staff produces the best software and the highest profit.

Where would I like to work? How about a company like Wondermill ([www.wondermill.com/index.html](http://www.wondermill.com/index.html)), 37 Signals ([www.37signals.com/](http://www.37signals.com/)), or Fog Creek ([www.fogcreek.com/](http://www.fogcreek.com/))? That sort of company looks pretty good. How does yours compare?

## SKILLS

### Proficient in...

- Ruby on Rails
- XHTML
- CSS
- MySQL
- Digital and analog photography
- Version control with Subversion
- OpenOffice
- Image manipulation (Picture Window, Paint.Net, Irfanview, OpenOffice)
- ASP/IIS
- Access 97
- Microsoft Office
- Object-oriented analysis and design
- Page design and layout
- Rational RequisitePro
- Rational Rose
- Rational Unified Process
- SQL
- SQL Server 2000
- Server-side includes
- Stored procedures
- Test-driven development
- Transact-SQL

- UML
- VBscript
- (Many older technologies)

#### **Some solid but relatively brief experience in...**

- ASP.Net (VB.Net/C#)
- Microsoft Reporting Services

#### **Coming Soon...**

- AJAX/JavaScript
- Illustration and image manipulation with Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Inkscape
- SQL Server 2005 if needed
- More Ruby and Ruby on Rails topics like generators, plugins, RJS, Capistrano

## **RELEVANT WORK**

### **Job: Self employed**

**A variety of projects:** Writing books, blogging on software issues ([Snorpulence](#)), designing and making ultralight backpacking equipment. Most important, increasing my competence by learning new web technologies and upgrading my existing skills with Ruby and Ruby on Rails, MySQL, Subversion source code management, advanced CSS, user-interface and graphic design and usability topics. Currently learning JavaScript and AJAX.

**Currently:** My business is Buznutt Blue Sky Solutions ([Buznutt.com](#)). Lacey, WA. 8/2005 thru today.

### **Job: Assistant to database administrator**

**Web and database** odds and ends centering around Oracle 10g, Microsoft SQL Server 2000 and Microsoft ASP projects.

**Title:** Information Technology Applications Specialist 4. Washington Department of Social and Health Services, Olympia, WA. 4/2005 to 8/2005. (Position eliminated. Self-employed since then.)

### **Job: Data Warehouse Developer**

**Problem 1:** Employment Security needed a materialization component for its enterprise-wide data warehouse for the Unemployment Insurance division.

**Solution 1:** I designed and built processes to extract data from mainframe backups, download it to the server, and refill data warehouse tables.

**Problem 2:** Another developer left behind a nonfunctional propagation subsystem for the data warehouse.

**Solution 2:** I debugged the subsystem, refined it and reworked it until it performed. I added checkpoints and an error log. I trimmed his 250-page developer's manual to six pages and fully documented the system.

**Other:** I advocated standards, repeatable processes, transparency, openness and excellence. The data warehouse system was completed under budget and ahead of schedule.

**Title:** Information Technology Applications Specialist 5. Washington Employment Security Department, Lacey, WA. 11/2003 to 4/2005. (End of project.)

### **Job: Web Developer, Client-server Developer**

**Problem 1:** DSHS Children's Administration needed a new web site.

**Solution 1:** I became the first staff webmaster and created the site. Current version at: [www1.ddshs.wa.gov/ca/general/index.asp](http://www1.ddshs.wa.gov/ca/general/index.asp)

**Problem 2:** Customers looking for an office had to download Word documents, then download a Word

reader to view them.

**Solution 2:** I designed and built the first database-enabled internet site in the history of DSHS. I also created a web-based CMS system for clerical staff to keep it updated. See current version of the Office Locator at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/f2ws03apps/caofficespub/offices/general/OfficePick.asp>

**Problem 3:** HR had a problem tracking workplace issues statewide.

**Solution 3:** I designed and built a web-based, database-enabled system to record these issues and generate reports.

**Problem 4:** The Publications people had a "Good News" intranet page for staff, but needed a developer to keep posting documents.

**Solution 4:** I created a CMS system using VBA to store Word documents, record their names, dynamically generate HTML menus, and display the documents on demand.

**Problem 5:** Social workers needed a statewide system to help place children into foster homes.

**Solution 5:** Using an existing Access database as a model I created a multi-office application running on SQL Server 2000 for all staff to use.

**Problem 6:** The Foster Parents/Kinship Training Institute needed an internet site.

**Solution 6:** I created it. The current version is at [www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/index.asp](http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/index.asp)

**Problem 7:** Victim's Services needed an internet site.

**Solution 7:** I created it. The current version is at [www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/dvservices/index.asp](http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/dvservices/index.asp)

**Problem 8:** The Office of African-American Children's Services needed an internet site.

**Solution 8:** I created it. No current version available.

#### **Other work:**

- Led development of a subsystem during a rewrite of a legacy system.
- Led requirements workshops
- Performed object-oriented analysis and design
- Wrote object-oriented code
- Produced UML models and documented, tested, working code
- Forward and reverse engineered software using UML, Rational RequisitePro, Rational Rose, and Rose Delphi Link
- Created project plans
- Developed project-wide documentation standards
- Wrote custom components in Delphi
- Advocated standards, repeatable processes, transparency, openness and excellence

**Title:** Information Technology Applications Specialist 4. Washington Department of Social and Health Services, Olympia, WA. 7/1999 to 9/2003. (Went to Employment Security data warehouse project.)

#### **Job: Client-server Developer**

**Problem 1:** The other two developers of a three-person team both quit, leaving us shorthanded.

**Solution 1:** I covered.

**Problem 2:** There was no way to install software on new or replacement computers after a client-server application was first brought up in all 39 counties.

**Solution 2:** Each computer hosted a separate client-server system. I traced the referential integrity tree on the database removed the constraints to clone a clean, empty database. Then I created a process to install the client-server system and restore referential integrity to the database after site-specific data was set up on it.

**Problem 3:** Replacing computer hardware at 60 work stations in 39 counties and installing custom software on each one.

**Solution 3:** I created a process for this and wrote a manual for the contract staff. Using InstallShield and Wise installer (both were needed), I wrote scripts to install the Delphi application and the Interbase

database, plus all supporting software, while allowing for customizations specific to each site. I worked an entire Saturday without pay to be on call at the office in case of problems. There were none. At all.

**Problem 4:** We had frequent data corruption problems and hardware failures at customer sites.

**Solution 4:** I took turns with two other developers to perform help desk duties and talk customers through remedial processes.

**Problem 5:** The client-server application was put into production before it was fully finished and contained zillions of bugs.

**Solution 5:** I worked alongside two other developers to produce two upgrades to the system.

**Problem 6:** The data warehouse needed weekly updates.

**Solution 6:** for several months while there was no data warehouse administrator, I ran and monitored a weekly refresh from DB/2 to SQL Server.

**Problem 7:** A statewide customer base was waiting for a set of partly-finished canned queries to use with BrioQuery query and reporting application.

**Solution 7:** I picked up the project where it had been dropped, developed a project plan and built or rebuilt a set of 100 queries.

**Title:** Applications Analyst/Programmer III/IV. Washington Office of the Administrator for the Courts, Olympia, WA. 12/1995 to 7/1999. Promoted once. Left to work on project at DSHS.

#### **Job: Project lead, mainframe**

**Problem 1:** The Health Care Authority had \$1 million in outstanding claims against DSHS, due to incompatible data systems.

**Solution 1:** I was appointed to be the technical lead. I developed a project plan to identify which accounts had problems and to write a reconciliation system for submitting claims to recover the money. Claims were normally submitted on paper forms, but I submitted 28,000 in one batch on a computer tape.

**Problem 2:** A call center across the country was capturing data from potential customers, but there was no way to get it into the computer system without manually transcription.

**Solution 2:** I designed and wrote a program to accept transmitted data, validate it, and upload it to the mainframe and kick out an exception report for questionable data. The agency was then able to automatically generate enrollment forms.

**Problem 3:** Claims of children enrolled in a state-sponsored health insurance program needed monthly processing.

**Solution 3:** I added frequent enhancement to the system and shepherded the monthly processing.

**Title:** Computer Analyst/Programmer 3. Washington Health Care Authority, Lacey, WA. 12/1994 to 12/1995. Promoted to next job.

#### **Job: Analyst/Programmer, mainframe system**

**Problem:** As part of a larger project, I was assigned to add a way to insert comments into an existing system. The rules were complex and arbitrary and the new code had to be added somewhere inside an 18,000 line COBOL subroutine.

**Solution:** After much hair-pulling I found a hook and added my code as a separate capsule, connected to the existing code at only one point. Good thing I made it modular, because my project leader changed the specifications on me 10 times.

**Title:** Computer Analyst/Programmer 2. Washington Department of Corrections, Olympia, WA. 11/1993 to 12/1994. Promoted to next job.

#### **Job: Data Conversion Lead**

**Problem:** New customers needed data converted from systems used by other vendors to the Dealer Information Systems format.

**Solution:** I negotiated directly with customers across the country. I wrote data conversion programs in C to translate data to proper formats. On two occasions I voluntarily put in 12-day weeks to make sure that my work was rock solid and completed on time.

**Title:** Software developer. DIS Corporation, Bellingham, WA. 6/1993 to 11/1993. Left to accept position with Department of Corrections.

## MEMBERSHIPS

- South Sound DotNet users group: [www.ssdotnet.org](http://www.ssdotnet.org) since 2000
- The Olympia Web Design Meetup Group: [webdesign.meetup.com/405/?gj=sj5](http://webdesign.meetup.com/405/?gj=sj5)

## EDUCATION

- B.S. (Physics/computer science) Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA. Minors in math and chemistry.
- B.A. (English) Moorhead State University, Moorhead, MN.

## TRAINING

Completion Date	Name Provider Sponsor	Hours
06-28-2004	Design Patterns, Refactoring, and Unit Testing, Test-Driven Development Scott Bain - Net Objectives/State Board for Community & Technical Colleges IT Division Employment Security Department	40
05-20-2004	Data Warehousing: Best Practices in Today's IT Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed Dimensional Modeling Concepts</li> <li>• Dimension Management</li> <li>• Centralized Dimension publishing</li> <li>• Integration Competency Centers</li> <li>• Real-time and Changed Data Capture:</li> <li>• Next-Generation Data Warehousing Concepts</li> </ul> Dr. Ralph Kimball/Informatica Employment Security Department	8
11-10-2003	PASS Community Summit (Professional Association for SQL Server) Employment Security Department	40
01-30-2003	Kepner-Tregoe Project Management: How to complete projects on schedule, within budget, and with the desired results by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarifying project goals.</li> <li>• Specifying the needed resources.</li> <li>• Scheduling the project.</li> <li>• Assigning responsibility.</li> <li>• Monitoring and modifying the project.</li> <li>• Evaluating the success of the project.</li> </ul> Janelle Baldwin, GUI Project Manager Children's Administration, DSHS	24
02-21-2003	.NET Coding Best Practices 01-04-T519 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing Self-Documenting Code</li> <li>• Writing Easily Debuggable Applications</li> <li>• Error Management</li> <li>• Localized applications/Resource Management</li> <li>• Data Caching Strategies</li> </ul>	4

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data Access/Abstraction</li> <li>• General Maintainability (including self documenting code)</li> <li>• Custom Controls Development</li> <li>• ASP.NET (Web Farms/Web Services) Development</li> </ul> Department of Personnel	
02-21-2003	.NET Architectural Best Practices 01-04-T518 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encapsulation and reuse: An introduction to Object Oriented Programming in .NET</li> <li>• An introductory look at how classes and collections can work in .NET to provide more maintainable, flexible applications.</li> <li>• Organizing Architectures: The art of the fully-tiered application.</li> <li>• A tour of four logical layers, the User Interface, Business Logic Layer, Data Access Layer, and Data Layer. This session describes each layer and explains the benefits of each, and how to organize them in .NET. Also covers organizing projects in Visual Studio.NET.</li> </ul> Department of Personnel	4
06-14-2002	ASP.Net South Puget Sound Community College Paid my own way (\$1215)	40
05-17-2002	VB.Net Fundamentals South Puget Sound Community College Paid my own way (\$1215)	40
03-19-2002	Web design and usability Valerie Champagne/Quantum Leap Computing State of Washington	16
12-13-2001	SQL Server 2000 Overview: The New Features, Level 200 How to Develop an End-to-End Application with .NET, Level 300 Microsoft/MS OnSite State of Washington	6
11-02-2001	SQL Server 2000: Database Design & Implementation Department of Personnel/Jim Parshall DSHS	40
10-23-2001	Dreamweaver 4 - Level 1 Department of Personnel/Darin Murphy DSHS	16
10-22-2001	OOA&D 100: Foundations of Object-Oriented Programming University of Washington Distance Learning, Anthony Fodor, Ph.D. Paid my own way (\$599)	1 quarter
03-08-2001	Requirements Management with Use Cases Ingrid Cavanah, Rational Software DSHS	24
12-08-2000	Object-Oriented Analysis and Design Using the UML, and Introduction to Rational Rose 2000 David Greggs, Rational Software Paid my own way (\$1795 + transportation and lodging for both classes)	40
07-12-2000	11th Annual Inprise/Borland Conference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting started with Linux, J. Williams</li> <li>• Intro to Kylix, C. Calvert &amp; D. Intersimone</li> <li>• Intro to Midas, L. Kleiman</li> <li>• VCL component building in Delphi, R. Konopka</li> <li>• Delphi technology, B. Riga</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using components, patterns and frameworks to realize architecture, T. Korson</li> <li>21 project management success tips, K. Wiegers</li> <li>ClientDataset as a replacement for cached updates, D. Miser</li> <li>The quest for quality requirements, K. Wiegers</li> <li>Internet development using Delphi, M. Li</li> <li>Introduction to VCL component building in Delphi, R. Morris</li> <li>Visual component development using frames, G. Jensen</li> <li>Overview of dbDirect, J. Kaster</li> <li>Introduction to CORBA with Delphi, D. Sampson</li> <li>Welcome to Linux: a guide for Win32 programmers, M. Cantu</li> <li>Using SOAP to communicate between operating systems, A. Tadros</li> <li>Delphi debugging techniques, D. Thorpe</li> </ul> <p>Inprise/Borland Paid my own way (\$1594 + airfare and lodging)</p>	
05-05-2000	Requisite Pro Tool Training Ron Baghai, Rational Software DSHS	8
05-26-2099	Web Design Series Internet Adventures/Olywa.net Paid my own way (\$300)	12
01-15-1999	Developing OO Applications with Java: The full life cycle IBM/Roger Miller Administrator of the Courts	40
12-11-1998	Introduction to Delphi 4: Client/Server Foundations Para/Matrix Solutions, Inc Administrator of the Courts	40
10-27-1998	Design by Contract and the Component Revolution Interactive Software Engineering, Bertrand Meyer Paid my own way (\$695)	8
05-08-1998	Hands-on Object-Oriented Techniques (Object-Oriented software engineering in Eiffel) Interactive Software Engineering, Bertrand Meyer Paid my own way (\$1995 + airfare and lodging)	40
12-01-1997	Introduction to Java for C programmers Pro Tech/Rob Bosworth Administrator of the Courts	40
04-30-1997	Microsoft Project Logical Operations, Inc. Administrator of the Courts	16
04-15-1996	DB/2 Pro Tech/MBA/Mr. Boyce Administrator of the Courts	40
02-28-1996	System Architect Doreen Evans & Associates Administrator of the Courts	32