Benjamin Sampica

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Summary

I currently work as a Lead Software Engineer for Casey's in Iowa. I'm a skilled professional in the .NET stack, an Agile practitioner, a full-time learner, and problem solver.

I like to not only make things work but make them work well. When things break, I like when they break really fast. I yearn to work with a community of like-minded professionals to make constant, evolutionary change every day.

GitHub – https://github.com/benjaminsampica

Employment History

Lead Engineer
Caseys
06/2024 - Present

Senior Engineer
Casey's General Stores • Ankeny, Iowa
12/2021 - 06/2024
Led the strategy and implementation around application modernization for internal Accounting - fully rearchitecting, rewriting, lifting/shifting, etc. various applications either into new on-premise servers or deploying into the cloud. .NET 6/7 Minimal APIs, Blazor, and Function Apps/Worker Services utilizing Entity Framework Core, CosmosDb, and Azure SQL Database are deployed via Bicep to Azure.

Organized pair and ensemble programming practices with the team fully adopting ensemble programming for the majority of work completed. Alongside this the practice of automated testing and deploying code has been warmly adopted.

I organize and currently lead Casey's quarterly DevJam, a two-day event of discovery and learning for developers to tackle new and existing problems in a safe, pressure-free box of their own making. I also participate frequently in monthly tech talks, some of which you can view on my GitHub (techtalks).

Software Engineer III
Comoto • Philadelphia, PA
06/2021 - 12/2021
As part of a Scrum team, developed and maintained features for jpcycles.com, revzilla.com, and cyclegear.com, largely focused on marketing and search engine optimization so our pages and products would be seen by our customer's eyes first.

Used a wide array of tools including .NET, Elixir, MSSQL, Postgres, TeamCity, and CircleCI to take features from concept to cash.

Senior Application Developer
Homesteaders Life Company • Des Moines, IA
08/2020 - 06/2021
Maintained and enhanced a Blazor PDF processing application that utilized Azure OCR to scan each individual page, ingest the results, perform additional scrubbing and business validation, and then saved to an Azure SQL database for further manual processing. This application began with zero tests or code coverage. It stood at 70% code coverage with a full suite of tests when I left.

Pair/ensemble programmed daily with other developers on my team and advocated for these good software practices across the organization by leading the adoption of a technical talk for interested developers.

Helped guide Azure DevOps organizational strategy for pipelines, templates, and projects.

Coached my team on Agile/Lean by facilitating events, encouraging discussions, and experimenting relentlessly to find what worked and what didn't.

Web Application Developer - Contract

Polk County • Des Moines, IA
08/2019 - 08/2020
Full-stack web developer that worked on a Scrum team to create and maintain web applications to enhance the ability of Polk County to serve its residents. Largely worked in the .NET stack including ASP.NET Core MVC, Bootstrap 4, MSSQL, JavaScript, and Git.

Steered, prototyped, and ultimately built, maintained, and skilled up Polk County's presence in Azure DevOps - moving us away from Bitbucket and bringing CI/CD into our toolchain.

Steered and participated in a reimagining of teams into product-focused teams instead of project-based teams which led to increased transparency, introspection, and adaptation.

Software Engineer

Casey's General Store • Ankeny, IA
03/2019 - 08/2019
Led an API strategy for sun setting legacy applications that needed to continue to speak with each other. These were coupled with a few ASP.NET Core websites which utilized Azure DevOps for CI/CD in order to replace these legacy applications.

Maintained and refactored legacy applications written in VB.NET, VBScript, and other legacy languages.

Associate Web Developer

Polk County • Des Moines, IA
06/2016 - 03/2019
Full-stack web developer that worked on a Scrum team to create and maintain web applications to enhance the ability of Polk County to serve its residents. Largely worked in the .NET stack including ASP.NET MVC 5, Bootstrap 3, MSSQL, JavaScript, and Git.

The products our team built and maintained ranged from small to large-scale for the Treasurer, Sheriff, Accounting, and Human Resources departments. Notably, we wrote a Scheduler application whose primary outcomes were managing county-wide scheduling, leave, and payroll. We also wrote a CMS for the Sheriff's office to handle their entire Civil division workflow - from notice to judgment to collection of which flowed millions of dollars.

Freelance Projects

Dynamo League - www.dynamoleague.com

Dynamo League is a fantasy football league based off the Yahoo fantasy football league with heavily customized rule sets. Built with ASP.NET Core APIs, Blazor WASM, EF Core, SQL Server, and deployed via GitHub Actions.

The Machine Spirit - www.bensampica.com

Built using Hugo, a static site generator, and deployed via Netlify for CI/CD capabilities from GitHub. This is my site where I post blogs, mostly about tech stuff and feature my GitHub profile. Check it out!

Angela Connolly - www.angelaconnolly.org

Built using MVC5, EF 5, and Bootstrap 3, Angela Connolly is Polk County's current Board of Supervisor for District 2.

It utilized the Facebook API to pull content directly from her public Facebook page and also links with ShareBlue, a fundraising organization for politicians. It received thousands of unique visitors and was responsible for tens of thousands of dollars in donations during the 2018 election. After the election was won the site was decommissioned.

Education

Management Information Systems

University of Northern Iowa • Cedar Falls, Iowa
Graduated 05/2016

Computer Support Specialist

Kirkwood Community College • Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Graduated 12/2012

Hobbies

- I'm a full-time DM for Dungeons and Dragons.
- I like building really neat computers and like to one-up myself every time - see my site for pictures.
- I spend a lot of time reading. I like to read soft/hard-skill books in the software development space but also enjoy sprawling epics like the Horus Heresy, Wheel of Time, or most things Brandon Sanderson.