Dan Zumwalt

Principal Software Engineer

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IMPACT

Drove an initiative to co-host microservices on high-density compute clusters, eliminating 20% of our engineers' time previously lost to toil.

Led COVID response for my team, doubling our global footprint and "giving back" thousands of VM cores to Azure. For extra points we saved over $300,000 in annual compute costs as a result of my work.

Tech lead for "25K teams"; a cross-organizational initiative to increase our maximum team size from 5,000 to 25,000 members. A fun project, so many scale challenges overcome.

LET'S TALK ABOUT

C# ASP.NET Core Node.js Yarn npm typescript javascript distributed systems microservices continuous delivery docker engineering systems engineering productivity

WORK EXPERIENCE

Sep 2020 - Current

Principal Software Engineer

Microsoft

Tech lead for Microsoft Teams Connect Shared Channels.

Sep 2017 - Sep 2020

Senior Software Engineer

Microsoft

This is when I started to shift more of my focus to our backend stack. I quickly found myself at the center of designing our new approach on "how to microservice" for all of Microsoft Teams. I needed to find someone to stick their neck out and set new patterns for nearly every aspect of how we made backend software. After looking unsuccessfully for a while I decided to switch teams and be that person myself. I did what I set out to do, shipping a feature set on a new service and cementing new patterns for backend service development spanning the entire stack from the IaaS and PaaS to the framework and application layer in the process. These patterns have been used by thousands of engineers in Teams now. Along the way I led teams which delivered on key product needs to "pay the bills" for management.

Jun 2015 - Sep 2017

Software Engineer II

Microsoft

Joined what would become Microsoft Teams as the third member of the Engineering Systems team. We were responsible for everything from the moment our engineers checked in code to the moment it was in the hands of our customers. It was an incredibly broad charter and that gave me a ton of room to grow. I drove initiatives ranging from moving to Yarn from (shrinkwrap-less) npm to achieve faster and repeatable builds to partnering with two other engineers to build our flighting and phased deployment infrastructure.

Jun 2013 - Jun 2015

Software Engineer

Microsoft

Hired as a Program Manager, transitioned to SDET when my manager learned I knew how to code. I served as the bridge between the product teams for msn.com and the MSN (formerly Bing) apps and Microsoft's geo-distributed team of local language and market experts. I learned skills I use to this day: leading without authority and communicating deeply technical concepts to a technically unfamiliar audience.

Feb 2012 - Jun 2013

Test Engineering Intern

Alpha Technologies

I was hired to test batteries. Key performance indicator was not getting electrocuted. Internship was "terminated" during my senior year so that they could hire me back at more than double my intern pay to continue working on their new product: XM360.

EDUCATION

Sep 2009 - Jun 2013

B.S. Electronics Engineering Technology, Computer Systems

Western Washington University

Discovered the academic motivation that had been missing in the years prior. Studied and made a bunch of pizza to pay the bills. Things turned out alright.