

April Drake

Newcastle, Wa

425-466-8329

RECOMMENDATIONS -> <http://www.thedrakefam.com>
<mailto:april@thedrakefam.com>

I have 16 years overall experience in QA, Feature Program Management and Release Program Management roles. I've worked at Microsoft for 11 of the past 16 years in release and program management as well as testing roles. Over 5 of those years were fulltime employee status, with a 3.5 review average (above average). I am excited to work in the "Cloud Computing" space and my experienced has been involved in client/server internet systems since 1995.

I'm highly organized, tenacious, thorough, and I come up to speed quickly on new technologies. My overall goal is to secure a full time Release Program Management position in a technical, fast-paced and stimulating engineering environment where I can use my skills to optimize team dynamics, processes and efficiencies.

Experience

Microsoft Experience

April 2010 – Current: Microsoft – IEB (XBOX Live Business Intelligence Platform)

Release Program Manager

- Serve as Release Manager for EIP (a Data Warehouse/ Business Intelligence platform for Xbox Live)
- Agile- Scrum and Waterfall mixed methodology (served as Scrum of Scrums Lead, Scrum Master)
- VSTF and Sharepoint 2008 and 2010 Administrator for 100 person team including managing 2 migrations of data (including Sharepoint Designer – InfoPath and Site Collections/Term Store Admin)
- Drive UAT through Production Triages, Ship Room, VSTF Workflow
- Manage both major releases and service updates for multiple concurrent projects (SIT, UAT, Prod)
- Development of production support models (SIT, UAT and Prod consumer support systems)
- Own Schedule, Risks and Issues mitigation, Go/No Go reviews/signoff (PUM, GM-level reviews)
-

2008– March 2010: Microsoft - The Technical Committee

Research Software Engineer in Test

- Drove test plans, test passes and reviews for Microsoft's OEM Vista Win 7 Logo Compliance programs
- Research incl. Windows Live Messenger, Media Center and Player, and 3rd ISV competitors Real Player (and SP), JetAudio, Media Monkey, iTunes, Quicktime and others
- Developed high level executive summaries and quarterly reviews to the Members of The TC
- Wrote test applications in C# using .NET to aid in test efforts
- Developed and ran test plans for Windows Media Applications and ISVs compliance on Vista & Win 7
- Developed proficiency using VMWare (Virtual Machines)

2002 – 2004: Microsoft – Office Sustained Engineering Services

Lead Program Manager, Watson and Core Build Program Manager

- Office "Watson" PM (the technology that sends information from client systems to Microsoft DW for BI analysis for the product teams)
- Core Build PM
- Lead PM for Office Product Quality Initiatives

1998–2002: Microsoft – Site Server, SharePoint Portal Server

Program Manager, Release Program Manager

- Feature PM for Licensing and Time-Bomb in SharePoint Portal Server V2
- Feature PM for Setup of Site Server Service Pack 3 (the Win 2k SFP release)
- Resource Kit, Service Packs and Software Development Kit PM for V1 (full) and V2 (half)
- Release Manager for SharePoint Portal Server V1 and V2
- Customer Programs Manager
- Dogfood Program Manager

1996–1998: Microsoft – Netshow, Internet Services Business Unit

Software Test Engineer, Quick Fix Engineer

- Automated Test Scripts (VB, VB Script, Visual Test, XML) for web-based client applications for ISBU (Connection Manager)
- Drove all fixes for Personalization and Membership, Customizable Starter Sites and Usage Analyst in Site Server as a QFE engineer
- Managed the client test lab, including setup of all clients/servers, hardware and networking components
- Built and maintained the internal Netshow team client bits procurement and test results website
- Ran all automated BVTs on daily builds, also ran SMOKE tests for relevant releases

Non-Microsoft Experience

2004–2008: Spire Lending Solutions

Owner, Mortgage Broker, Software Designer

- Built the company from the ground up, with 6 loan officers, 2 processors and 2 IT. Designed the 1400 sq ft office including HW and Software infrastructure of 14 systems (set and mobile client systems, databases and servers) in Queen Anne, Seattle
- Served as the Designated Broker for the company and also trained all Loan originators and processors
- Designed and developed LOB .NET applications to service loan professionals and clients
- Lead all IT activities including setup and maintenance of all systems in the network on XP & Server 2000
- Created and ran a group called SIREN (Seattle's Investing in Real Estate Network), a networking group with principles from many real-estate centered backgrounds to share experience and clients

Education

1994–1996: *University of Washington*

B.A., Chemistry & Teaching Chemistry Majors (Natural World Science Minor)

- Honors program

1992–1994: *Bellevue Community College*

AA

- President's & Dean's List each quarter

Awards, Certifications, Skills

- Certifications include MCP in Networking Essentials (TCP/IP), SQL Administration (6.5), Upgrading to Windows XP and .NET Framework Application Development Foundation, MCTS Web-based client .NET App Development.
- Microsoft's Outstanding Achievement Award for Trustworthy Computing, Reliability pillar '03 for work to expand Watson adoption to all major Microsoft Productivity applications
- Coding/Languages include, Quick Basic, C, C#, VB and scripting languages (VBScript and Visual Test, also DOS and NT commands for batch file scripting), Visual Studio IDE, ASP.NET, ADO.NET, HTML & XML, PHP, LDAP, Codecs, and proficient in SQL Management Studio and the use of T-SQL query language to mine databases.
- VSTF 2008 and 2010, ACT, Clear Quest, Prod Studio, Raid, other SQL databases, Visual Source Safe
- Productivity & OS platform experience: Powerpoint, One Note, Excel, Word, InfoPath, Project, Project Server, FrontPage, SharePoint Portal Server (2001 through 2010), Visio, Windows 7, Win XP, Vista, Win 7, NT 3.51, 03 server, IIS 4

Hobbies

- Gardening, Composting, Raising Chickens, a Dog, a Husband and a Toddler
- Reading (Historical Fiction mainly), Creative Writing & Blogging (most recent blog entry on 'Going Green' <http://www.aprilp.com/gogreen/why%20i%20decided%20to%20go%20green.mht>)
- Yoga, Snowboarding, and Gaming

References

- [Steven Avery](#) – Research Development Test Engineer, The TC - (425) 233-4472
- [Randy Evans](#) – Principle Program Manager, Microsoft - (425) 703-2338
- [Jeff Pack](#) – Lead Test Engineer, Beyondsoft – (206) 200-0584
- [Rinku Sreedar](#) – Sr. Solution Manager, Microsoft - 425-241-8788
- [Shaun Bennett](#) – Principle Program Manager, Microsoft - (425) 538-2567
- [Mark Adolph](#) - Lead Program Manager, Microsoft - (425) 753-5517