

Gavin F. McKenzie

Software Architect

President, Angry Pumpkin Software Inc.

Profile

Gavin's career in the commercial software industry spans over twenty years. He has demonstrated vision and leadership with an ability to communicate and realize goals from an initial concept through all aspects of the software development life-cycle.

Gavin's vision has been realized as the inventor of the XML forms and document publishing technology (XFA) acquired by Adobe and incorporated into Adobe Acrobat and Adobe LiveCycle enterprise software. Gavin is able to focus strategically and tactically, and he possesses political savvy that affords him the ability to manoeuvre through the organizational aspects of a particular challenge. He is equally effective at developing commercial-grade software, leading software developers, collaborating with marketing and legal organizations, and presenting to customers or members of an executive team. Gavin is an engaging speaker, able to connect with both technical and non-technical audiences from small customer meetings to large conference settings.

Notable Accomplishments

Patents

Gavin is co-inventor on three patents pertaining to Adobe PDF and XML document formats, dynamic page layout, and multi-locale intelligent documents.

Launch of blogs.adobe.com

Gavin pitched a one-year plan to the Adobe executive-team for the delivery of a public blogging initiative designed to narrow the communications gap between Adobe and its customers. Gavin assembled and led virtual teams comprised of legal, public relations, marketing, and IT, focused on delivering the required policies and technologies. Gavin evangelized blogging to the organization and mentored employee bloggers. One year later, in August of 2005, the website blogs.adobe.com successfully launched and was well-received as a significant shift in how Adobe communicates publicly.

Semantic-Web Technologies and Standards Work

Gavin was a member of the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) Semantic Web Best Practices & Deployment Working Group, and worked with semantic-web technologies including metadata (e.g. RDF) and ontologies (e.g. RDF-Schema, OWL).

Gavin was also founding member of the W3C XForms Working Group focused upon developing the next generation of web-form capabilities.

XML Forms

Gavin developed a family of XML markup languages and corresponding software architecture that reshaped JetForm's product family. From initial concept in 1997 through 2004, Gavin remained tenaciously focused on this effort and assumed many roles over the duration of the initiative: chief architect, development lead, and product manager. In 1999 Gavin received JetForm's "Above and Beyond" employee-of-the-year award recognizing his leadership.

JetForm's XML forms capabilities were a key technology factor in Adobe's acquisition of JetForm, and this technology is present today in both Adobe Acrobat/Reader and the Adobe LiveCycle suite of enterprise software.

PDF Support

Gavin recognized that JetForm solutions lacked the ability to leverage the Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). When JetForm R&D chose not to embark on developing PDF capabilities, Gavin identified a customer in the Netherlands willing to assume a portion of the development costs in return for preferential licensing terms. Gavin led the subsequent development effort within JetForm. These PDF capabilities were also a key technology factor in Adobe's acquisition of JetForm.

Detailed History

Angry Pumpkin Software Inc. (formerly 6843387 Canada Inc.)

President (December 2010 - present)

- Focusing on iOS development, both independent product development and offering development services.

Four Point Solutions Ltd.

Solutions Architect (September 2006 - December 2010, on contract via 6843387 Canada Inc.)

- Worked with the Four Point Solutions team to develop and deliver Adobe-centric enterprise Java and Flash/Flex software solutions to customers in North America.

Adobe Systems Inc.

Senior Computer Scientist II,

Advanced Publishing Technology Group (2004, 1.5 years)

- Conceived a plan, and obtained executive level buy-in, to launch a public blogging initiative at Adobe. Assembled and led virtual teams comprised of legal, public relations, marketing, and IT. Successfully launched blogs.adobe.com in August of 2005.
- Contributing member of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Semantic Web Best Practices & Deployment Working Group, focusing on formalizing semantic-web technologies.
- Member of a development team working on research, and prototype development, in the area of automatic metadata extraction from unstructured content.

Chief Architect of XML Forms Architecture (XFA)

Intelligent Document Business Unit (2002, 2 years)

- Provided architectural leadership to the Adobe LiveCycle and Acrobat development teams in their adoption of XML Forms Architecture technology.
- Chair of the internal Adobe XML Forms Architecture Working Group (since 1999).
- Member of the internal Adobe PDF Working Group.
- Managed development of the publicly available Adobe XML Forms Architecture specifications.
- Member of the W3C XForms Working Group (since 1999).

Accelio Corporation (acquired by Adobe in 2002)

Director of Core Technology Development (2001, 1 year)

- Created a development team responsible for delivering foundational XML forms technologies to internal product development groups.
- Evaluated and managed all open-source development and licensing.
- Identified the need for a standards-compliant C++ XSLT engine, and off-shored the development. The result of this development (a product known as Sablotron) was open-source and freely available.

JetForm Corporation (re-branded as Accelio in 2001)

Product Manager, XML Technologies (2000, 6 months)

- Developed a bridging strategy of adding XML adapters into legacy products as a means to assist in customer migration to next-generation XML-centric products.

Development Manager, XML Forms Technology (1999, 1 year)

- Managed a development team focused on Java-based development of a server-side document generation system based on XFA.

Lead Architect, XML Forms Architecture (1998, 4 years)

- Led the design and specification of a family of XML formats that became the underlying technology for both client-side and server-side electronic form solutions at JetForm, and subsequently Adobe.
- Submitted the XFA specification to the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).

Project Lead and Senior Developer (1996, 3 years)

- Modified existing document generation and printing products to deliver capabilities suitable for use in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese markets.
- Provided expertise to other development teams on matters related to internationalization, Unicode, and locale-specific character encodings.

Project Architect, Professional Services Team (1993, 3 years)

- Identified a need for Adobe PDF support in JetForm products; proposed the capability to a customer in the Netherlands; and, designed the technology subsequently developed and delivered.
- Designed and delivered several document generation solutions to customers in the Netherlands.
- Designed and co-developed a printing sub-system enabling JetForm document generation products to drive production-class high-speed Xerox laser printing systems.
- Designed and demonstrated a capability to use SGML as a data-format with JetForm products.
- Responsible, as the lead architect, for a project where the JetForm product-family would be customized to be used as a production form-design tool within Moore Business Forms.

Product Training Specialist (1991, 2 years)

- Provided on-site product training for both the client-side and server-side JetForm products.

Sales-support Engineer (1990, 3 years)

- Provided on-site support to Lawrence Livermore Laboratories during a significant deployment.
- Provided regular technical sales support to the JetForm direct-sales force.

Customer-support Specialist (1990, 2 years)

- Provided telephone product support to JetForm's global customer base.

Software Developer (1989, 1 year)

Technical Skills

Development

- Apple iOS (iPhone/iPad/iPod Touch) development (Objective-C, Cocoa)
- Dynamic languages (e.g. Ruby, Lua)
- Java/J2EE, C/C++
- XML languages and tools, markup-language design, semantic-web technologies (e.g. RDF and OWL)
- Web application development technologies, protocols, languages, and formats

Operating Environments

- Windows, UNIX (Solaris, Mac OS-X), Linux

Standards Development

- W3C Working Groups: HTML, XForms, Semantic Web Best Practices & Deployment

Education

Loyalist College of Applied Arts & Technology,
Computer Programmer Analyst – 3yr. program (1986 - 1989)

Volunteering

Director on the Board of an Ottawa independent school since 2005, and school President since 2007.

Member of the Advisory Board to the Loyalist Computer Studies department from 1997-2005. In 1998 Gavin persuaded Loyalist to modernize the curriculum with a focus on Java and web-technologies, shifting the curriculum away from trailing-edge technologies.

Contact

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