

Dan Ward

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Boston, MA

Summary

With over 15 years of software engineering experience, Dan has worked with a wide variety of technologies in industries as varied as health care, life sciences, real estate and finance. Most recently he has been responsible for improving the DevOps processes and experience for a company that provides mass emergency notifications.

Over the past 10 years Dan has worked on the 'Dev' side of DevOps - developing and maintaining build and deployment systems, building and managing virtual environments, managing code repositories, automating countless tasks with PowerShell – but is interested in focusing more on the full DevOps experience – configuration management, containers, etc. And while Dan has been working full-time with Microsoft's technology stack for many years, like any true geek, he loves technology of all shapes and sizes.

Proficiencies and Expertise

Dan's areas of expertise include the following:

- PowerShell: Windows and Core development, script module frameworks, build & deployment, remoting with custom listeners, Desired State Configuration, Pester validation
- Docker: custom containers, automated PowerShell Core script testing across different OSes
- Build/deploy: Git/GitLab/GitHub, TeamCity, Octopus Deploy, Subversion, TFS, MS Build/custom tools
- .NET, ASP.NET and related technologies
- Content Management Systems: Sitecore (certified), SharePoint, Microsoft CMS
- Search engines: SLI Systems, Coveo, Lucene, Verity UltraSeek
- Databases: MS SQL, Oracle

Open Source Projects

PowerShell Beautifier Creator of internet's first Windows PowerShell & Core code cleaner & re-formatter. Rewrites a PowerShell script file re-indenting all whitespace, changes aliases to commands, fixes letter casing on command and parameter names, method calls and type references - and more!

<https://github.com/DTW-DanWard/PowerShell-Beautifier>

Work Experience

OnSolve Fall 2017 – Present

Head of DevOps

- Managing migration of 180-200 separate applications from TFS to TeamCity and from a custom in-house deploy utility to Octopus Deploy (ongoing).
- Scripted export of Octopus Deploy configuration data with PowerShell Core using REST API. Using the configuration data export:
 - Built configuration data validation system using Pester testing framework.
 - Created search utilities for finding deploy-time variable substitution in Octopus Deploy project and global variables *and* all .NET code configuration files.
- Responsible for GitLab, Octopus Deploy & TeamCity configuration.
- Responsible for build, deployment & documentation process for all staging releases. Assists in production releases.
- Manages team of 4 DevOps resources across multiple offices.

DMI – Commerce Summer 2012 – Summer 2017

Technical Lead

Client: Vistaprint Summer 2017 – Summer 2017

- Investigated SLI Systems (SaaS search) to replace existing site functionality.
- Created PowerShell data extraction process aggregating data from microservices and Sitecore to seed data.

Technical Lead

Client: Cushman & Wakefield Summer 2012 – Summer 2017

- Managed the successful rebuild and launch of Cushman & Wakefield's global web site infrastructure on time and on budget. Migrated from a legacy ATG installation to a modern Sitecore content management system in 6 months, supporting content across 30+ sites in over 30+ languages.

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- Managed all maintenance and upgrades to the system *with 0 production downtime over 5 years*. Changes included: new site functionality, section redesigns, Sitecore upgrades, infrastructure upgrades and performance testing.
- Managed and maintained all infrastructure and migration process to new hosting environment.
- Created and maintained the build and deployment system in PowerShell.
- Scripted processes to purge old content, identify bad item data, fix known issues and improve the overall quality of the content.
- Analyzed and fixed performance issues within Sitecore publishing, Coveo re-indexing and cache invalidation processes.
- Provided all day-to-day support for authors in EMEA and USA.

Institute for Healthcare Improvement Fall 2003 – Summer 2012

Software Engineer, Build/Release/Infrastructure Manager

Designed, delivered and supported numerous applications critical to the focus of the organization including the build & deployment system, the CRM and the main content management systems. Typically responsible for overall design and implementation of middle-tier and back-end systems while junior developers implemented front-end and maintained code base.

- Created custom build & deployment system using a reusable PowerShell framework. System is responsible for building and deploying SharePoint, ASP.NET applications, web and Windows services, database objects and functionality, etc. For the 70+ applications running on the 30+ servers at IHI, developers do not have remote desktop access to any servers but can easily deploy application packages everywhere. This system also provides continuous integration and quality tests via custom post-commit processing.
- PowerShell framework custom functionality includes: remote deployments using WinRM, a generic task-based processing system, a service locator-type utility for storing common values, a powerful logging module, etc.
- Managed application support on all server environments: managed configurations, application pool balancing, security, etc.
- Worked with developers across all applications to help ensure quality, security, performance, and consistency. Directed major cross-application changes. Managed all .NET upgrades.

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Corning Life Sciences Fall 2001 – Fall 2003

Senior Software Engineer

Re-implemented ActiveX-based complaint management system (CMS) as an ASP.NET application front-end with an Oracle database back-end. CMS managed the complete workflow / lifecycle of complaints, produced custom Word document correspondence from XML templates, consumed and utilized customer and product data from PeopleSoft CRM system, provided data exports in downloadable MS Access files for offline analysis, etc.

Originally built in .NET 1.0/1.1, the complaint management system was used at Corning for over 14 years with no downtime and required very little maintenance from local IT staff. It was used internally by customer service representatives, quality control personnel, lab engineers and warehouse representatives around the world for processing business-critical data, client correspondence, email notifications and more.

Agency.com Spring 1997 – Fall 2001

Senior Technical Consultant

Client: Liberty Mutual: Distributed Car Insurance Application

Created back-end data-replication system for a distributed car insurance system. Primary Oracle database was replicated to 34,000 unique MS Access databases with support for versioned schemas.

Client: Reuters: Personal Finance Web Site

Responsible for discovery, design and resource management of financial tools for a multi-language personal finance site.

Client: Deutsche Bank: Foreign Exchange Division

Created web front-end for foreign exchange trading system used for large (\$10+ million) transactions for Tier 1 clients.

Client: Corning Life Sciences

Created client-server complaint management system (described above). This original implementation was a client-server application using an IE/ActiveX front-end an MTS/Oracle back-end.

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Client: Financial Times: FT Your Money Web Site

Administered Oracle database environments and Interwoven TeamSite for personal finance site.

Sapient Fall 1995 – Spring 1997

System Administrator & Webmaster

Maintained corporate Intranet. Built and managed corporate automated roll-out of Windows 95. Installed, configured, and maintained NT and Novell servers and anti-virus solutions. Provided PC desktop support for over 350 individuals.

Education

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Computer Science, Bachelor of Science

President of Upsilon Pi Epsilon - Computer Science Honors Society