

John Blakkan

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EXPERIENCE

SPIRENT COMMUNICATIONS, Calabasas, CA

8/2002 – Present

Director of Global Test and New Product Introduction

- Responsible for New Product Introduction, Manufacturing Engineering and Manufacturing Test Development functions within the supply chain organization. (10-15 hardware Product Introductions/Year) Supply chain responsibility throughout product life-cycle for: DFM/DFT requirements, manufacturing test, capacity planning, and ongoing reliability test/yield improvement. Staff in Southern California, and New Jersey (and formerly UK, Canada, and Thailand). Contract manufacturing in Thailand, Nevada, Arizona, and UK.
- Incorporated Design for Manufacturing/Design for Test into product life-cycle deliverables. These improvements (Design for Test, Design for Manufacturability) were critical to off-shoring the majority of our production to lower cost Asia sites. Implemented Six Sigma/Cpk product monitoring/adjustment program for Radio Frequency Test and Measurement equipment (Cloud-based, Ruby/Sinatra) Instituted ongoing monitoring and reporting of intermediate process yields at our contract manufacturers.
- Re-architected manufacturing test system into a distributed network of automated test stations (largely implemented using Linux/open source software (Ruby, Rails, Perl, postgres, mySQL), and geographically dispersed at our corporate sites and Contract Manufacturers). These reduced test labor by 90%, while increasing test coverage and product quality. (Overall approximately 5% reduction in contract manufacturer labor cost, while the improved test coverage reduced warranty rates by more than 50% on major product lines)
- Reorganized my department by selective hiring and retraining. Changed the training focus from individual test script development to framework-based software development and automation. Transitioned test developers from isolated VBasic programs to network-enabled Ruby and Python scripts using modern development environments and tools (including Sinatra, Rails, Eclipse, Jenkins, Cucumber, Rspec, Webdriver, and Git).
- Supervised/directed New Product Introduction function within the supply chain organization (using both traditional/waterfall methods and Agile/SCRUM methods).
- Developed a division-wide employee Mentorship program, pairing junior employees with executive staff. Highly rated by participants as a useful organizational development and morale-building tool.
- Personally developed prototype/proof-of-concept web apps for Production Control and tracking and Statistical analysis of product parameters. (Ruby on Rails, Sinatra, some Perl).

CAW NETWORKS, Sunnyvale CA

3/2000-8/2002

Director of Platform Engineering

- Managed network-software and hardware development for four generations of products for Caw Networks (Venture-funded startup company, purchased by Spirent in August 2002). I selected the electronic subsystems and jointly designed the mechanical chassis with our sheet metal vendor.
- Set up Kanban production system for finished goods, minimizing inventory, with no inventory write offs during product-line transitions.

- Wrote order-tracking/logistics software that linked customer purchase orders to our manufacturing records. This let our customer service employees respond immediately to customer calls.
- Member of Caw's founding engineering team. I designed a printed circuit board and developed the logic for its programmable devices. This circuit board resulted in a cost savings of nearly \$100 per system by reusing an unused hard disk interface as an output display device.
- Wrote the original versions of product verification test scripts using a "Test First" (TDD) method in Perl/Tk, with automated continuous integration testing. Other software developers (and test technicians) in my organization were able to re-use and extend the basic test architecture as we grew.

APPLIANCE TECHNOLOGY, LLC , Campbell, CA

4/1998 – 3/2000

General Partner

- Organized the LLC and maintained State and Federal filings, bylaws and minutes. Reviewed all contracts. Set up retirement program and insurance policies. Retained tax accountant. Saved the partnership fees equaling approximately 40% of revenue by establishing our own LLC rather than using a contract agency.
- Wrote and delivered sales presentations to clients. This saved the LLC money and time when preparing bids to potential clients.
- Developed new documentation system for clients' products using Adobe Dreamweaver. The HTML documents were used extensively for client training; speeding information transfer and eliminating paper documents.
- Embedded C and Netware NLM C programming (Implementing networked (CIFS) file system).

COMPACT DEVICES, INC., Campbell CA

6/1995 – 4/1998

Director, Platform Engineering

- Developed six hardware/software networking platforms. (And personally wrote the storage device and network interface driver software (in C) as an early member of the engineering team.)
- Managed supply chain, including electronic parts procurement and kitting, mechanical suppliers, engineering subcontractors, and other vendors.
- Built relationships with key suppliers, later critical to the success of Caw Networks.
- Developed statistical failure model and instituted long-term QA test. This eliminated reliability as an issue for our e-mail server products.

TANDEM COMPUTERS, INC, Cupertino, CA

7/1984 – 5/1995

Engineering Manager

- Led team of 13 developing digital hardware systems and software. Our products contributed approximately \$50 million to annual revenue. (Optical Disk and Magnetic tape subsystems)
- Developed new automated verification test methods that cut ten-month development cycle by 20%.
- Role included project management, reporting status to the VP of engineering. Used PERT for scheduling and resource allocation, chaired cross-functional teams, ensured timeliness of deliverables and managed projects to schedule and resource constraints.

Design Engineer (7 yrs.)

- Digital logic (Gate array) and embedded software design (C, Assembly, and Ada; 25,000 line+ projects), with focus on fault tolerant/reliable system design.
- Storage device evaluation (Tape and Optical Disk drives).
- 2 US patents (5,067,132 and 4,998,069) for fault-tolerant computer design.
- 2 Tandem Outstanding Performer awards for innovative designs contributing to significant revenue.

EDUCATION

UCLA ANDERSON SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
MBA

Los Angeles, CA
2008

- *Honor Society*
- *High-tech business association, Entrepreneur's Association*

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Computer Science

Berkeley, CA
1981-1984

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
M.S., Computer Science

East Lansing, MI
1981

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
B.S., Computer Science

Muncie, IN
1979

PROFESSIONAL

Project Management Professional (PMP), Certificate #1411901

Project Management Institute 2011

Certificate in Project Management

UCLA Extension 2013

Certified SCRUM Master

Scrum Alliance 2014

Big Data X-Series Certificate

edX/UC BerkeleyX 2015

Member ACM, Member Project Management Institute, Sr. Member, IEEE