LEON ATKINSON

leon@leonatkinson.com
(925) 351-7167
leonatkinson.com/hire-me

Endorsements→

Leon is the measure with which I have measured all of my other bosses. I love arguing with Leon when we're trying to find the right technical solution. He's open minded and sharp, and he leaves his ego at the door. If only everyone could argue so fairly!

I also love having Leon on my team. He knows how to "get stuff done", regardless of what's involved. Whether or not an elegant solution exists, if a solution exists at all, Leon will find it. Leon taught me the value of being well-read. We use to play basketball at work, and one day I noticed a book on basketball techniques on his desk. I learned quickly that no matter what you're doing, you'll probably learn to do it better if you read some material from the experts.

Last of all, I love Leon's books. His writing style is calming and easy to understand. I can "import" knowledge from Leon's books much more easily than I can with most other books.
Shannon -jj Behrens
Software Engineer, Clear Ink

I have the pleasure of working with Leon on two separate occasions in my career. Leon's grasp of the online space, open source and all things technology related is amazing. He was preaching the virtues of things such as PHP and LAMP long before most of world even knew they existed. Time and again demonstrating not only a concrete grasp of the technology landscape today, but the future as well.
Ingrid Nielsen
Director, Online Media & Analytics, Clear Ink

CAREER SUMMARY→

Proven leader of programming teams. Server-side/database specialist. Entrepreneur. Best-selling author of the first book on PHP. Internet native, online since 1991. Open source adherant.

OBJECTIVE→

Director-level or higher position leading a technology team at a smaller, focused company.

WORK EXPERIENCE→

Vice President of Engineering
2009-2010 • Berkeley Transportation Systems • Berkeley, CA
Expanded engineering team to five programmers plus one UX expert. Implemented formal management processes. Led two major expansions of the core product, and developed a product for a new market segment.

- Traffic Management Center Activity Logger (TMCAL)
- PeMS Arterial Module
- PeMS Transit Module

Vice President, Chief Technologist
2003-2009 • Conversive Electrons dba Clear Ink • Berkeley, CA
Built technology team to six employees plus contractors. Mentored junior hires into senior roles. Led team in building many successful client projects.

- Autodesk Offer Center
- Autodesk “Realize Your Ideas Tour” Podcast
- UC Berkeley Events Calendar
- John Muir Health Web site

Open Source Contributor
1994-Present
Created several innovative Web applications and released them as open source.

- Slogbase • Analytics for Second Life • 2007
- FreeEnergy Start Kit • PHP 5 framework • 2005
- FreeTime • Project management • 2001
- FreeTrade • Ecommerce platform • 1999
- Stow • Storage optimizer • 1994

Independent Consultant
2001-2003 • Self-employed • Martinez, CA
Built ecommerce sites for an international ISP, a national retailer, and a local non-profit. Built law research portal.

- NTT/Verio
- A.G. Ferrari Fine Foods
- Berkeley/Albany YMCA

Leon Atkinson has been a collaborator and partner of mine for over 10 years. I will never forget his final interview, during which he said (with a glint in his eye), "If you hire me, you won't regret it." All these years later, I have no regrets and all the enthusiasm one can muster for him. He is honest, consistent and well-thought. He is at the top of his field in terms of technical skill. Most importantly, he has grown through the ranks to a spot in top management at Clear Ink through skill and ability at learning each part of the business. He is a standout person and partner.
David Burk
CEO, Clear Ink

Leon is one of the most dedicated and innovative engineers I have ever worked with. He is always willing to do what it takes to find the right solution and is a great pleasure to work with. He has a integrity and that rarest of traits, trustworthiness. I recommend him highly to all.
James Brown
VP Professional Services & Strategic Planning, Clear Ink

Author
1998-2003 • Pearson Education • Upper Saddle River, NJ
Wrote the first book about PHP, published in May 1999, Core PHP Programming, a best seller that inspired two following editions. Third Edition co-authored with Zeev Suraski of Zend. Wrote Core MySQL in 2001, endorsed by MySQL AB.

- Core PHP Programming 1/e, 2/e, 3/e
- Core MySQL 1/e
- “Tricks of the Trade” column for Zend.com
- Magazine articles: Web Review, 2600 Magazine

Chief Technologist
1997-2000 • Clear Ink Corporation • Walnut Creek, CA
Rose from the ranks, from Programmer to Chief Technologist, leading a team of 10 engineers. Brought many brands to the Internet for the first time.

Database Engineer
1995-1997 • Quantal International • Berkeley, CA

EDUCATION→

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
June 1994 • Weber State University • Ogden, UT

ADDITIONAL INFO→

- I love to code. I love to lead. I've spent significant time developing both sets of skills.
- Development teams run best as craftsworks rather than as factories. Regardless of skill level, programmers need to be challenged so that they keep learning. When they know their work matters, when they know how to measure progress and they know their manager treats them as individuals, they excel.
- People love working with me. Check out my LinkedIn account: http://www.linkedin.com/in/leonatkinson
- I am an expert with PHP and MySQL, but I've coded professionally on most the popular Web technologies such as: Java, Python, Perl, VBScript, ColdFusion, Oracle, MS SQL Server, Sybase, CVS, Subversion, Ajax. I've built apps on the Facebook and Google Gadgets platforms. I've used the Yahoo! UI library. I've also coded in C and C++. I learn new systems easily and only the most exotic systems slow me down.