What it’s Like to Work at a Small Software Company

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Abstract

We will discuss our experiences working for a small software company with a “start-up” mentality. There are other types of companies that hire CS grads, but this particular scenario is what we can talk about first-hand. We’ll talk about daily life working with the team, roles and career paths, and how we interview for technical positions. After this we’ll pull up some code on the projector and go over some refactorings we use on a daily basis in the office. During this whole time, questions and interruptions are welcome!

Exago, Inc.

...is a small (and growing) software company in Kingston, NY. We are 1.25 hours from Troy (down I-87) and under two hours from NYC by car, bus, or train. We are building a product that we think can be an order of magnitude better than others (really) and highly value entrepreneurship. We look for engineers who will thrive in a high-responsibility, high-freedom environment. Each team member has a visible impact on the product and company and we push out changes that are seen by clients often in a matter of weeks (or even days).

Chris

Six years ago I got into web development, learning by reading tutorials and watching YouTube videos. I then created my first app which is in use today by a minor league baseball team. I worked in accounting for several years but met our CTO at a Hudson Valley tech meetup. He introduced me to Exago, said he was hiring and I left my accounting job for a tech job. Today I’m managing our QA department which right now is a team of two.

Peter

I graduated in 2012 from the RPI Computer Science undergrad program and was hired out of school as a Software Engineer at Exago when the company was only seven people (we now are over 40). I met our CTO at one of the RPI career fairs, talked about some tech they were using, got invited for an interview, and here we are. Today I’m managing the development team which has grown to five (we’re looking for a sixth!) full-time developers.