Robert John Churchill
Software Engineer/Entrepreneur/Investor

Robert.John.Churchill@gmail.com   650-248-3683

Principal Mobile Software Engineer with decades of experience shipping software to millions of users. Seeking an innovative environment creating great mobile app experiences.

Experience

Churchill Development
Owner, App Developer

Ongoing
San Mateo, CA

Consulting and prototyping for various companies ranging from early stage startups to large, well-established industry leading companies (focusing on mobile).

- Examine entire code base for Everand/Scribd iOS apps, recommend improvements for overall architecture to flatten crash rates and improve overall velocity such as migration to SwiftUI and Swift Concurrency
- Universal iOS app as well as server development for Habitera.com (health startup)
- iOS chat SDK and infrastructure for Layer.com (enterprise conversation platform)
- iOS Yahoo and News apps for Verizon/Oath/Yahoo
- Consulting for miscellaneous startups, developed and shipped various server/client software projects

Scribd
iOS Principal Software Engineer / Architect

2023-present
San Francisco, CA

Everand and Scribd are two major iOS apps covering eBooks, audio books, magazines, podcasts, sheet music, and PDF documents. Report to CTO.

- Modernize code base (over a decade old) by migrating to newer/current technologies
  - SwiftUI, Swift Concurrency, dependency injection methodology, data model code generation
- Effort to stabilize apps where crash rates were increasing
- Effort to address general instability where common user-oriented features were behaving

Verizon Media / Yahoo
Senior Principal Software Engineer

2018-2022
Santa Clara, CA

Yahoo Home app was an iOS encompassing most popular features sets from all other Yahoo app properties (Mail, Finance, Sports, News, Weather). Reported to Mobile VP.

- Universal (iOS and iPadOS) app written from scratch using Swift
- Integrated older/legacy code from both Yahoo Mail and Yahoo Weather
- Effort to modern libraries (such as for Unit Testing) used across multiple app properties

Stealth mobile startup
Mobile Software Engineer

2016-2018
San Mateo, CA

Private/stealth startup focused on bespoke iOS universal apps enabling content creators to more closely interact with their followers/subscribers

- Universal (iOS and iPadOS) app written from scratch
- Integration of video and audio streaming, with custom commenting

Habitera
Senior Software Engineer

2015-2016
Santa Clara, CA

Habitera was an early-stage startup focused on helping people develop healthier dietary habits. Reported to Founders.

- Universal (iOS and iPadOS) app
- User mode with features for tracking weight, food consumption, chatting with coaches
- Coach/administration mode where coaches could interact with the users they interacted with, track their diet and weight, schedule chat sessions

RockMelt, Inc
Founder / **Principal Software Engineer**

2009 - 2013
Mountain View, CA

Rockmelt built alternate web browsing experiences with a focus on social integration. Developed integrated browsers on MacOS, Win32; also worked on universal iOS app (featured in Apple's App Store). Reported to CEO/CTO. Acquired by Yahoo in 2013

- Developed web browsers (C++, Objective-C) (based on Google Chrome and Webkit) with integrated social networking and sharing features
- Developed RockMelt universal iOS App

Vudu
Senior Software Engineer

2007 - 2008
Santa Clara, CA

Vudu was first to market with a high definition video streaming set top box. Acquired by Walmart in 2010.

- Developed front end Media Player/Browser (C++) in an embedded/memory-constrained environment.
- Lua scripting integration
- iOS app of Vudu's remote control

Danger Research
Senior Software Engineer

2005 - 2007
Palo Alto, CA

Danger created an advanced Java-based phone running DangerOS. It was the first phone to put social messaging features first, and it featured advanced hardware industrial design and software user interface. Danger's platform was a precursor to Android. Acquired by Microsoft in 2008.

- Camera App (new features, performance optimizations)
- Launcher app (new features, support for new devices)
- Custom MySpace client that was one of the first consumers of T-Mobile's data network.
- Digg app
- T-Mobile Sign Up App (Five circles of best friends)
- Danger Java library additions

America Online
Principal Software Engineer

2001 - 2003
Mountain View, CA

AOL (post-Netscape acquisition) continued browser efforts based upon Netscape/Mozilla.

- Browser performance team - worked on optimization, performance, and memory footprint
- Added Macintosh-specific features and functionality into browser

TellMe Networks
Systems Architect

2001
Mountain View, CA

TellMe built a modern customizable Interactive Voice Recognition platform that powered calls for UPS, Directory Assistance, Fandango, E*Trade and others. Acquired by Microsoft in 2007.

- Worked on developer portal running on Linux and written in Perl and PHP, integrated with a JSP based backend.

Netscape Communications

1996 - 2001

Netscape built the Netscape web browser which morphed into the open-source Mozilla. Acquired by AOL in 1999.
- Integrated internet search technology into Netscape and AOL browsers
- Designed and implemented XUL templates (RDF data to XUL DOM translation)
- Cross-Platform Browser Group and developed a C++ framework that implemented RDF.
- Implemented C++ and XUL (Java/XML/Javascript) Internet Search, Filesystem, FTP, Bookmarks, History, Related Links using RDF
- Ported Netscape Personal Edition to JS/DHTML (the first shipping self-contained Javascript client app with DHTML).
- Netscape Personal Edition Mac Client: Mac Plugin development to integrate the browser with ISPs.

University of Michigan   **1991 - 1996**
Senior Systems Research Programmer   Ann Arbor, MI

- Primary Macintosh developer for U of M's Campus Computing Sites
- Kerberos authentication (open source) (Mac OS-level integration)
- Campus-wide charge-for printing (Mac OS-level integration, backend servers, etc)
- Application licensing (Mac OS-level integration)

Education

University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, MI (Computer Science)
Delta College - Saginaw, MI (Computer Science)

Patents

Integrated adaptive URL-shortening functionality
United States Patent 8,281,232 Issued October 2, 2012 Inventors: Robert Churchill, Tim Howes, Eric Vishria