

Contact

www.linkedin.com/in/benjaminyoung (LinkedIn)
bigbluehat.com/ (Personal)
www.restfest.org/ (Other)

Top Skills

REST APIs
JSON-LD
Open Standards

Languages

English (Native or Bilingual)
Sign Languages (Limited Working)

Publications

Building Web Extensions Because You Can
Graph Database Goodness with LevelGraph
WebExtensions 101
Webcast: PHP and CouchDB
Sync Globally, Work Locally

Benjamin Young

Web, Developer, & Linked Knowledge Advocate
Greenville, South Carolina, United States

Summary

Inventor and evangelist specializing in building and promoting Open Web Technologies, document-oriented Hypermedia-enabled APIs, and video-game like User Experiences.

Some objectives include creating...

- decentralized architectures that allow content to be as close to its owner as possible and move through "the Cloud" only when and as needed to reach others, for greater processing, etc: Web-enabling content in context.
- collaborative communities focused on creative problem solving over castle construction and turf warring.
- technology experiences that "fall away" as one focuses increasingly on the problem and forgets about the interface.

Experience

Digital Bazaar, Inc.

Developer Engagement Engineer

August 2023 - Present (1 year 6 months)

Building out the developer experience around W3C Verifiable Credentials and Decentralized Identifiers (DIDs) as well as CHAPI, the Credential Handler API. Enabling developers to issue, verify, and store Verifiable Credentials across the Web.

The Apache Software Foundation

11 years

Apache Annotator (incubating) PPMC

August 2016 - Present (8 years 6 months)

Apache CouchDB Committer

February 2014 - Present (11 years)

Working on UI/UX, marketing, and the occasional Erlang tweak.

W3C

Co Chair - JSON-LD Working Group

June 2018 - Present (6 years 8 months)

Continuing to support the JSON-LD community in its growth, standardization, and wider use.

REST Fest

Co Organizer

May 2010 - Present (14 years 9 months)

Mike Amundsen and I organize the REST Fest Unconference which premiered September 17-18, 2010. REST Fest is focused on the REST Web Architectural style and bringing it to the people.

Exactly, Inc.

Part Owner

April 2011 - Present (13 years 10 months)

After 7 years, BigBlueHat merged it's business investments with Exact Solutions to form Exactly, Inc. The new combined company sports a broader tech portfolio and larger team. Exactly, Inc. continues to improve the BlueInk CMS and grow the web hosting and development offerings started at BigBlueHat.

web2project

Developer

September 2010 - Present (14 years 5 months)

User Interface and Experience developer, REST API architect, alternative database researcher

John Wiley and Sons

Principal Architect

May 2016 - August 2023 (7 years 4 months)

Digital Publishing, Annotation, and Web specifications advocate and liaison.

W3C

3 years 5 months

Participant - Social Web Working Group

June 2016 - February 2018 (1 year 9 months)

The Web

Contributed to various conversations, code, and open Web standards such as Activity Streams 2.0, ActivityPub, and Linked Data Notifications as an active participant in the W3C's Social Web Working Group.

It has been excellent to see ActivityPub become the foundation of the "fediverse" powering Mastodon, PeerTube, and many others.

Editor - Web Annotation Working Group

October 2014 - February 2017 (2 years 5 months)

The Web

Core participant in the Web Annotation Working Group throughout its history. I enjoyed the opportunity to be a contributing Editor to the Web Annotation Data Model and Web Annotation Vocabulary specifications, and be a core contributor to the Web Annotation testing framework to validate compliance Web Annotation Data Model and Protocol (HTTP API) implementations.

Invited Expert

December 2015 - May 2016 (6 months)

The Web

Invited Expert in the Web Annotation Working Group & Digital Publishing Interest Group at the W3C. Serving as Co-editor on the Web Annotation Data Model.

InfoQ

Editor

March 2016 - March 2017 (1 year 1 month)

Wrote Web API related news about REST, Hypermedia, JSON, NLP, IoT, that Cloud thing, and a host of other HTTP (or similar) things.

<http://www.infoq.com/author/Benjamin-Young>

Hypothes.is

Developer Advocate

May 2014 - December 2015 (1 year 8 months)

Brought Hypothes.is to Developers and Developers to Hypothes.is through collaborative development of open source Open Annotation technologies for the good of the Web (and everyone who uses it). Comments welcome.

During my time here I worked directly with the W3C's Annotation Working Group and joined the list of editors on the Web Annotation Data Model.

Cloudant

Developer Advocate

September 2013 - April 2014 (8 months)

Speaking, hand waving, coding, and writing about the Cloudant Data Layer as a Service NoSQL database in the Cloud based on Apache CouchDB.

InnoVenture.com

CTO

September 2012 - July 2013 (11 months)

Building the international social network for Big Ideas from lovely Greenville, SC.

Couchbase

User Experience Engineer

August 2010 - August 2012 (2 years 1 month)

User Experience Engineer specializing in cushion and seat cover design for Apache CouchDB and bucket juggling for Membase.

BigBlueHat

Owner

July 2003 - April 2011 (7 years 10 months)

Turned a small freelance gig into a multi-person company with a downtown office and an international client base. Created the BlueInk CMS, contributed to the open source dotProject project management system, and built various custom applications for clients.

dotProject Open Source Community

Developer

January 2005 - September 2010 (5 years 9 months)

Code contributor, add-on developer, forum and mailing list contributor

code4lib 2010

Speaker

February 2010 - February 2010 (1 month)

Gave a Lightning Talk and led a Breakout Session on "Why CouchDB?" at this event for library technologists.

Upstate Entrepreneur Forum

Organizer

January 2007 - September 2009 (2 years 9 months)

Collaborate with other organizers to plan and develop the Upstate Entrepreneurs Forum's meetings and ventures in the Greenville/Upstate South Carolina area.

Bob Jones University

5 years 6 months

Information Architect

June 2000 - July 2003 (3 years 2 months)

Worked as the chief information architect for the Web Technologies department at Bob Jones University. Worked with a small team to create and manage the bju.edu web site.

Database Developer

February 1998 - June 2000 (2 years 5 months)

Built an itinerary tracking database for the university President and other speakers traveling to promote the university.

Education

Bob Jones University

BS, Graphic Design · (1998 - 2002)