

Paul McLanahan

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Atlanta, Georgia & Remote • Résumé current as of August 7, 2025

Skills

*Software Engineer with 17 years of experience building and deploying Python web applications
and 25 years total in web technology*

Systems Administration

Linux, K8s, Docker, AWS, GCP, CircleCI, GitLabCI, Github
Actions

Development

Python, Django, SQL, Bash, HTML/CSS/Javascript

Collaboration

IRC/Slack, Git & GitHub, Sphinx, Bugzilla

Employment

Mozilla, *Software Engineering Manager* 03/2021 – 05/2025

Managed a team of 7 engineers, both front-end and back-end, working on marketing websites and systems.

Hired 3 engineers as needed and managed their training, onboarding, and continued professional development.

Mozilla, *Staff Backend Software Engineer* 08/2019 – 03/2021

Continued my role as technical lead for www.m.o and basket.m.o, overseeing their performance and reliability.

Worked across Marketing and L10n orgs to implement a new l10n system for www.mozilla.org (www.m.o) for over 100 languages, moving the site from custom .lang file format to Fluent files to support the l10n systems and teams in use across Mozilla.

Developed with our team new CI/CD pipelines using GitLabCI and task runners in our own AWS infrastructure. These runners build our Docker images, update k8s deployments, and run unit and integration tests.

Developed a redirector service for www.firefox.com so that Marketing could quickly deploy redirects or host test pages on this valuable domain.

Mozilla, *Senior Web Developer* 10/2013 – 08/2019

Worked as technical lead for the www.m.o and basket.m.o projects for backend development.

Moved www.m.o to a hybrid-static site still using Django but relying on pre-built read-only SQLite files for data distribution.

Helped move our infra from Deis to pure kubernetes (k8s) by doing a lot of work on the apps and deployment scripts, as well as developing and releasing django-allow-cidr.

Moved www.m.o assets pipeline from django-pipeline to Gulp using separate Docker images for each and browser-sync to serve the assets and proxy the Django app.

Lead the technical work for webwewant.m.o, an application that geolocated IPs and showed downloads of Firefox 29 on a map.

Built the publishing system for Mozilla Foundation Security Advisories for use by the security team that takes Markdown or YAML files in a repo and turns them into the /security/ section of www.m.o.

Developed an administration platform and data exchange system for Firefox release notes management.

Developed the standard for contribute.json files in repos and on websites.

Mozilla, *Web Developer* 01/2012 – 10/2013

Worked with various teams to improve and maintain web applications including mozillians.org, mozillalabs.com, and developer.m.o.

Worked on the transition of www.m.o from PHP to a Python/Django application.

Worked on basket.m.o to add support for the SMS api from ExactTarget.

Developed and deployed scrumbugs, a site that gathered Scrum data from bugs in bugzilla.m.o and graphed it for teams in need of that sort of thing.

MetaMetrics Inc., *Software Engineer* 01/2010 - 12/2011

Developed web applications around the company's core educational measurement technologies.

Worked on a team to develop and launch engagingenglish.com, a site that aggregates content from across the internet, measures it for text complexity, and recommends it to users based on their reading skill level and interests.

Developed internal web-based tools to increase efficiency and decrease errors for other teams.

All development work was done with Python and Django, using many 3rd party libraries including South and Haystack (in front of Solr), and using MySQL or PostgreSQL for persistence depending on the project.

Intuit, *Software Engineer* 2007 - 2009

Worked on the team that designed and built a master configuration management system for all Digital Insight products. The system manages configuration files, databases, and product files across multiple network tiers and server architectures. All of the web-based interfaces were built with Python/Django using jQuery for client side JS.

Wrote and maintained a variety of CLI and web-based tools to help our web and technical support teams do their jobs more efficiently. These were built using a variety of technologies including Python, Django, Perl, PHP, and MySQL, and deployed to Debian GNU/Linux and AIX.

Digital Insight, *Senior Web Developer* 2005 - 2007

Worked on a team that both built, and managed the building of websites on a variety of platforms from flat files on a Unix server, to XML/XSLT based sites running on Apache Cocoon. I pioneered the effort to use jQuery as our standard JS library, and wrote several jQuery plugins to aid our development process. As Sr. Developer, I was also responsible for maintaining the quality and quantity of the work of the entire team. I also installed, configured, and maintained the two Ubuntu development servers the team used to host our sites in development as well as the tools we developed to aid in site development.

SmallBizPros Inc., *IT Specialist* 2004 - 2005

Developed accounting and server management software using Perl, PHP, and PowerBuilder.

Installed and managed the Linux server infrastructure for the company providing web and email services.

Digital Insight, *Web Author* 2002 - 2004

Built marketing websites for banks and credit unions using just HTML, Javascript, and CSS.

Built tools to improve the team's output velocity and quality.

FLOSS Projects

django-celery-email — Send emails async from Django using Celery

django-redirect-urls — Redirects for Django sites in code, not DB

urlwait — Waits for a service defined in a URL in the environment to become available

dokku-webhook-deploy — Use Dokku to auto-deploy branches pushed to Github

Education

University of Georgia, *Master of Internet Technology* 2001 - 2002

Intense masters program setup as a collaboration between the MIS and CS departments.

University of Georgia, *Bachelor of Science - Cellular Biology* 1995 - 1999

Undergraduate work in genetics and developmental biology.