

John DeSanto

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Qualifications

- Over 15 years experience in information technology
- Over 5 years in leadership roles
- Product design, management, and implementation
- Information retrieval, statistical NLP, search relevance
- Ontology and knowledge base development
- Graduate degrees in mathematics and philosophy

Technology

- Python, Lisp, C, Java
 - OWL, RDF/S, SPARQL, XML
 - Cyc, OpenCyc, SUMO, Dublin Core
 - MySQL, MongoDB, Triple Stores
 - Inventor/co-inventor on nine pending patents
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Employment History

Senior Software Engineer

Jan 2010 – Present

PeerPong – San Francisco, CA

- Responsible for developing and improving PeerPong's question/answer technology, including query analysis, probabilistic text classification, and expertise ranking
- Developed classification and entity extraction methods for text content analysis

Consulting Software Engineer

Dec 2006 – Mar 2009

Jiles Inc. - San Francisco/Los Angeles, CA

- Developed strategies and code to improve the Jiles vertical search engine.
- Wrote Python code to improve the statistical parser, query template analysis and categorization. Responsible for code design, implementation and documentation.
- Implemented methods for integrating data from the following APIs: Yahoo BOSS, Flickr, Youtube, Google, Freebase, and Open Calais.

Senior Semantic Architect

Jul 2008 – Oct 2008

Searchme - San Francisco, CA

- Responsible for improving Searchme's vertical ontology and search relevance
- Developed Lisp/Python code to improve query analysis and name recognition

Senior Ontologist

Aug 2007 – Jul 2008

NASA / Intrinsic - Mountain View, California

- Created and tested OWL ontologies for NASA data systems using TopBraid Composer and XML Schema editing tools. Worked with SMEs to establish model validity.
- Developed and presented a common data model for integrating multiple formats (OWL/RDFS models, XML Schema)
- Wrote Java code to translate spreadsheets and CSV files into semantic formats

Search Project Manager (contract)

May 2007 – Jul 2007

Deloitte - San Francisco, California

- Managed and developed strategies for improving SharePoint search for Deloitte Consulting
- Provided expertise on search technology and metadata strategies

Director of Research and Development

Aug 2004 - Oct 2006

Kozoru - Overland Park, Kansas

- Led Kozoru's research and development efforts
- Successfully created and released a customizable chat-based search product, BYOMS (build your own mobile search), that used an in-memory data store generated in real time
- Implemented a distributed statistical parser using a customized map/reduce framework
- Developed answer ranking algorithms, distributed source acquisition code and methods for testing how query responses changed over time. All code was written in newLISP.
- Managed junior developers and established best practices for software engineering, including SVN and custom internal build tools
- Contributed to the newLISP open source project (both ideas and code)

Ontologist

Oct 2002 - Jul 2004

Unicru - San Francisco, California

- Led development of the SmartMatch ontology. Supervised knowledge base content editors
- Developed ontology content and functional requirements for the knowledge base

Knowledge Architect

Dec 2001 - Jul 2002

Kanisa - Cupertino, California

- Developed taxonomies and logical rules for Kanisa's CRM platform
- Analyzed query patterns and optimized retrieval results to improve search satisfaction

Ontologist, Project Manager

Sep 1998 - Mar 2001

Cycorp - Austin, Texas

- Created and tested new areas of the ontology for the Cyc knowledge base.
- Developed ontologies for CycSecure, DARPA High Performance Knowledge Base (HPKB) Year 2, Rapid Knowledge Formation (RKF), Hotbot/Lycos.
- Supervised four ontologists and programmers and managed project KB development
- Oversaw all subject matter experts, reported to DARPA program manager, and presented at scheduled program meetings
- Assisted in locating and applying for new sources of funding, primarily through DARPA, including Cycorp's DAML proposal (Spring 2001)

Education

- **The Johns Hopkins University**
M.A. Philosophy, 1995; Ph.D. candidate 1995-98
- **The University of Colorado**
M.A. Mathematics, 1991
- **The University of Michigan**
B.S. Mathematics and Philosophy, 1989

Publications

- Dan Crow and John DeSanto, [A Hybrid Approach to Concept Extraction and Recognition-based Matching in the Domain of Human Resources](#). 16th. IEEE International Conference on Tools with Artificial Intelligence (ICTAI-04), Boca Raton 2004.
- Martin Quiroga, John DeSanto and John Flowers, "[Natural language based search engine and methods of use therefore](#)", U.S Patent #7,447,683.