

Objective

I am seeking employment within the Board Game Industry at a professional level. Over the past nine years I have been working independently as a game designer, reviewer, and content creator in the industry, however I feel that now is the time to merge my professional life with my passion. Professionally, I have been working for an ecommerce development company for the past 20 years and have grown with the company from a staff of three to a global company with a staff of dozens. I started as a website developer and grew into the role of Production Manager and finally, Ecommerce Solutions Specialist. I have been in charge of project management and technical development for the entire company and worked with the sales team, clients, and partners to develop unique ecommerce solutions. I have collaborated directly with clients, led a global team of up to 12 developers, and worked closely with all of our company departments, including development, sales, networking, human resources, and management.

Within the Board Games Industry, I have maintained a media presence on my GJJ Games site for over nine years, featuring hundreds of articles, from reviews to designer interviews, and more. I have been designing games since 2014 and have attended over a dozen Protospiel events, been active in the online board game community, volunteered with publishers at conventions, and organized charity events locally. I would love the opportunity to combine my skills in board game development, project management, and technical solution in order to help your company succeed.

Summary of Board Game Industry Experience

- Board Game Design
 - 12 games and several expansions available on The Game Crafter.
 - Three titles on The Game Crafter were semi-finalists in TGC contests.
 - Winner of the 2017 Manhattan Project Dice Game design contest from Minion Games.
 - Several titles were finalists and winners in BGG community PnP contests.
 - About 100 games in various states of completion, with about 45 playable prototypes.
 - Attended 14 Protospiele plus several other game design events.
 - Attended the 2018 Maker Fair at Northern Illinois University to teach about board game design.
 - Listed in several rulebooks for my contribution to game development, including Lucidity and Runika from Foxtale Games, Cursed Court from Atlas Games, Lockup from Thunderworks Games, Flag Dash from Piecekeeper Games, Radiant from Tin Shoe Games, Robotech: Force of Arms from Solar Flare Games, and Legacies from Brookstone Games.
 - Registered Merit Badge Counselor for Game Design for Boy Scouts of America.
- Began GJJ Games board game content site in 2014.
 - Over 130 board game reviews and over 300 designer interviews.
 - Dozens of other articles, features, and more.
 - Social Media following: Facebook, over 1,800; Twitter, over 1,400; Instagram, over 550.
 - Manage the Board Game Giveaways & Contests community on Facebook with over 7,400 members.
- Events:
 - Weekly local board game nights at There's Fun In Store in DeKalb, IL since 2015.
 - Extra Life charity local event organizer since 2016 – almost \$20,000 raised for charity!
 - Thunderworks Games Demo Crew for Gen Con 2018 and 2019 and Origin's Game Fair in 2022.
 - Protospiel Designer Attendee: Madison 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018; Milwaukee 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019; Chicago 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022.

Summary of Professional Management & Leadership Experience

- Ecommerce Solutions Specialist for Web2Market, Inc. from 2022-2023 – I worked with clients and our sales team to define project requirements and build scope and proposal documents to make sure our production team has well defined projects and they are sold for a reasonable profit by our sales team.
- Production Manager for Web 2 Market, Inc. from 2008-2022 – I managed a global team of up to 12 ecommerce developers and a project coordinator. I also worked closely with sales, networking, HR, and clients from around the world.
- Lead Developer at Web 2 Market, Inc from 2003-2008.
- Cubmaster and Primary Unit Leader for Cub Scout Pack 131 in DeKalb, IL since 2015.
- Completed Wood Badge Leadership Training through the Boy Scouts of America in 2015.
- Manager of Information Systems at Universal Automotive Industries, Inc. from 2001-2003.
- Director of Web Services at The Eclectic Network, LTD. in 2001.

Summary of Technical Experience

- Ecommerce development and solutions since 2000. Including:
 - Multiple ecommerce platforms:
 - AbleCommerce
 - Magento
 - Shopify – Certifications:
 - Product Fundamentals
 - WooCommerce
 - Omnyfy
 - Wix
 - Auctria
 - Project Management – Membership:
 - PMI, Chicago Chapter
 - Solutions Consulting
- Part of a professional IT staff since 1997, including leadership and management roles.
- Web design & development, networking, and database development since 1995.
- Working in networked environments since 1995.
- Promotional and presentation graphics since 1995, including:
 - Info Graphics
 - Web Design & Development
 - Video Production & Editing
 - Brochures & Flyers
 - Advertisements
 - Newsletters
 - Project Estimations
 - Requirements Building
 - System Integrations
 - Brand Development
 - Technical Documentation
 - Process Documentation
 - Training & Demos
 - Analytics Assessment
 - Speed Optimization
 - Content Creation
 - SEO
 - Trade Show Signage & Booth Design
 - PowerPoint Presentations w/ Animation
 - Sales Slicks & Case Studies
 - Sales & Investor Demonstrations
 - Financial Reports
 - Award Ceremonies

Work Experience

Web 2 Market, Inc. – Alsip, IL

<https://web2market.com>

In May 2022 the company was sold and became Web2Market, Inc. – Austin, TX

Web2Market is a full-service ecommerce provider. The company specializes in AbleCommerce, Magento, Shopify, and WooCommerce development and hosting with a specialty in providing integrations with other business applications, like POS, CRM, Accounting, DRM, and other tools. As a turnkey solution provider, Web2Market could provide everything from design to custom development, software integrations, hosting, and general support.

May 2022 – February 2023 – Production Manager and Ecommerce Solutions Specialist for Web2Market, Inc.

In May, 2022 the company was sold to a new owner. I began working with the new CEO and a core team to revitalize the company. We defined and put into place many new procedures to help make our sales processes and project cycle more efficient, more clearly defined, and more profitable. In December, 2022 I officially took on my new role of Ecommerce Solutions Specialist and stepped away from directly managing the production team.

As Ecommerce Solutions Specialist I began working very closely with our sales team and clients to define project scope and requirements, estimate project costs, and provide accurate quotes to our sales team. I created a new, professional project proposal template, estimation worksheets, and processes to ensure that new projects were profitable. The most recent projects were scheduled to bring in 2-4 times the rate of previously sold projects.

March 2008 – May 2022 – Production Manager

As Web 2 Market grew from a small company of four into a company with multiple departments and teams, I became the Production Manager. My responsibilities included:

- Leading and managing a team of up to 12 developers that worked remotely from various locations around the world, including hiring new staff, conducting performance reviews, arranging schedules, coordinating meetings, compensation and bonus distributions, and enforcing discipline (which was fortunately very rare).
- Acting as a liaison between our Sales team, clients, and the production team to make sure that projects were delivered according to the requirements agreed to through collaborative communication, regular standup meetings, and project documentation.
- Collaborating with our project coordinator to effectively handle scheduling, tasking, and resource management.
- Proposing and implementing new tools and technologies to improve project workflows, team collaboration, and customer support.
- Working with the company owners to define future company progress, professional partnerships, growth initiatives, and company policies.
- Wearing any other hats necessary, ranging from development to sales to customer support to human resources to systems management.

July 2003 – March 2008 – Web Developer / Lead Developer

As Lead Web Developer at Web 2 Market I was responsible for designing and developing dozens of ecommerce web sites for our clients and guiding the entire development team. Our client industries ranged from medical supplies providers to grocery store chains, B2C retail stores to B2B wholesale providers. I worked primarily with the AbleCommerce 5.5 ColdFusion platform, doing everything from the web site's graphic design and front-end code to customization of the server-side code and database development. I built over 30 plugins for the AbleCommerce platform, adding features ranging from a call center application to support for in-store pickup and delivery options for food retailers. I built numerous integrations with 3rd party applications, custom payment gateways, and more. I also built a custom installation package for AbleCommerce that included a number of features unique to Web 2 Market developed sites. These plugins and features helped Web 2 Market grow into the number one provider of AbleCommerce development, hosting, and support services at a time when AbleCommerce was recognized as one of the best ecommerce shopping carts available. In addition to my development work with AbleCommerce, I also helped manage the company's servers, databases, and network infrastructure until we grew large enough to have a dedicated systems department.

Universal Automotive Industries, Inc. – Alsip, IL

August 2001 – June 2003 – Manager of Information Systems

I was the only person in the IT department at Universal Automotive, therefore I was solely responsible for all technology solutions, including all telephony, data, and office hardware and software. Universal Automotive was the parent company of eParts Exchange, Inc. In addition to the responsibilities covered as a consultant from March to August of 2001 and as Technical Administrator at eParts Exchange, Inc., I took on the task of reorganizing and restructuring the entire network at Universal, including five other locations around North America. Other responsibilities included software management, IT asset management, Phone System management, security issues, graphic design, custom application development, assessing and updating current software, procedures and equipment, and all other related tasks, big and small.

Some major accomplishments include:

- Database management – I developed custom Access database programs to interface with web applications and managed Goldmine's MSSQL database.
- Redesign and upgrade web site – I developed a new look as well as additional functionality in the form of an online catalog, private employee sector, improved press release section and administrative abilities via a web interface.
- Custom Application Development – I designed and created several custom applications in Access and Visual Basic, including a CD-ROM program for investors and a supplier bid tracking application.
- Streamline IT expenses – I minimized the use of outside consultants and internalized many projects
- Refurbish networked environment – reworked firewall and VPN issues.
- Graphic Design work – including a large 30-minute PowerPoint Presentation complete with soundtrack and animation for the company's annual Employee Award Presentation, cover design and internal layout for the 2001 annual report, Investor Presentations, Sales Presentations and promotional marketing materials.

March 2001 – August 2001 – Contract Technical Administrator

Responsibilities for the parent company of eParts Exchange, Inc. include Goldmine FrontOffice 2000 management, MSSQL 7.0 database maintenance, development, and management, custom software development and troubleshooting, hardware maintenance, training other employees, writing procedures, and other computer related tasks.

The Eclectic Network, LTD. – Elmhurst, IL

March 2001 – August 2001 – Director of Web Services

Responsibilities for four in-house companies and several outside clients included web page design and development, Windows NT/98/ME/2000 network administration, Goldmine 5.0 management, graphic design, software and hardware maintenance, printing services, meeting with clients, training other employees, writing procedures, and all other computer related tasks. Accomplishments included developing new web sites for Surften, Norsman, Phoenix Engineering, and NSI, logo design for Norsman and NSI, Goldmine CRM database development, Direct Marketing brochure designs for Surften, Norsman, and Bailey Porter Servants, and informational packets design and content development for Surften, Phoenix Engineering, and Norsman.

eParts Exchange, Inc. – Des Plaines, IL

May 2000 – March 2001 – Technical Administrator

Responsibilities included ecommerce site management, Windows NT/98 network administration, Goldmine CRM management, MSSQL 7.0 database maintenance, development, and management, web page development, graphic design, custom software development and troubleshooting, hardware maintenance, data entry, report and form development, training other employees, writing procedures, and all other computer related tasks.

IBM Text/Graphics Center – Chicago, IL, Oak Brook, IL

May 1999 – August 1999, December 1999 – January 2000 – Text Graphics Specialist

Responsibilities included creating professional business presentations and reports, designing eye-catching graphics, and revising existing documents. Other tasks included hardware and software troubleshooting.

Contract Work:

2015 – present – Web site design/maintenance for Cub Scout Pack 131, DeKalb.

1999 – 2015 – Web development for the Des Plaines River Canoe Marathon with a searchable results database.

2013 – Website design in Wix for Buttercup Cupcakes.

2006 – 2010 – Web design and email marketing for Glidden Campus Florist.

2009 – Web site with dynamic events database for United States Canoe Association.

2002 – Logo, Business Card, and Letterhead designed for PCI Energy.

2001 – Flyer and advertisement designed for Pesche’s Garden Center’s annual Customer Appreciation Days.

1999 – Web design for ROCK-N-ROLL TO GO Disk Jockey Company.

1998 – Photography work for NovaNET Learning, Inc..

Volunteer Work:

2020 – present – Extra Life Charity Auction

<https://charityauction.bid/2022ExtraLife-GJJGames>

Creation and maintenance of annual auction sites on the Auctria platform, soliciting donations, fulfilling orders.

2015 – present – Web design & maintenance for Cub Scout Pack 131, DeKalb, IL

<http://pack131dekalb.org>

2001 – 2005 – Web design for the I&M Canal Rendezvous

Part Time Positions:

October 1999 – May 2000 – Web design for the UIUC Residential Student Computing and Housing Department

Concentration on 360-degree QuickTime Panoramic movies.

August 1999 – May 2000 – UIUC Residential Student Computing Workshop Instructor

Teaching students the basics of various software applications available in the UIUC Residence Hall computer centers.

August 1997 – May 2000 – Peer Computing Consultant for Residential Student Computing at UIUC

I was among 13 selected from over 400 candidates. Responsibilities included educating and helping other students in the UIUC Residence Hall computer centers.

May 1997 - July 1998 – Summers – Web Design and Water Conservation Officer for Citizens Water Resources of Illinois.

September 1996 - October 1998 – UIUC Residence Halls – a Peabody Drive Residence Halls Area Office Clerk.

July/August 1996 – Computer Lab Assistant, Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills IL.

Education

[University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#), [College of Art and Design](#).

August 1995 – May, 2000

BFA in Sculpture – Specialization in Digital Imaging, Computer Art, and Computer Programming.

Classes in Visual Experimental Technologies (3D Digital Animation), Digital Imaging, Drafting and CAD, Drawing, Design, Photography, Ceramics, Metals, C Programming, Painting, and Sculpture.

Continuing Education

[Moraine Valley Community College](#), Palos Hills, IL.

Professional Development Courses in: Database Applications, Desktop Publishing, Visual Basic, and Flash

[New Horizons Learning Center](#), Chicago, IL.

Professional Development course in QuarkXpress

Certifications & Memberships

- Member of PMI, Chicago Chapter – 2022-present.
- Shopify Product Fundamentals Certification

IT Skills

- **ecommerce:** AbleCommerce, Magento, Shopify, WooCommerce, various payment gateways, shipping integrations, etc.
- **ecommerce Adjacent:** Noibu, Shopper Approved, Retail Dimensions, Auctria fundraising software, IPaaS systems, CounterPoint, Shopify POS, etc.
- **Graphics Applications:** Adobe Creative applications (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, etc.), Affinity Suite (Photo, Designer, Publisher), QuarkXpress, and many other graphics programs.
- **Office Applications:** MS Office Suite (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, etc.), Zoho (Projects, Desk, People, CRM, etc.), Crystal Reports, R&R Report Writer, QuickBooks, Corel Word Perfect, Lotus/IBM Suite, and many other office applications.
- **Languages:** HTML, CSS, ColdFusion, SQL, XML, JavaScript, ASP, Visual Basic, .Net, C#, VBA, PHP, Python, Unix, Perl, and C.
- **Database Administration / Development:** MSSQL, MySQL, MS Access.

Community Involvement

- Extra Life & Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals
 - Fundraising Volunteer, 2016-present, raised nearly \$20,000
 - Organize several events to raise funds for Extra Life, including:
 - Fundraising Page
 - The Extra Life Charity Auction – on the Auctria platform
 - 24-Hour Gaming Marathon – hosted up to 70 people
 - The Great Meeple Race
 - Donation Jars at Local Businesses
 - Extra Life Fundraising Store
- Boy Scouts of America
 - Positions Held
 - Den Leader, Cub Scout Pack 131 DeKalb, 2013-present
 - Cubmaster, Cub Scout Pack 131 DeKalb, 2015-present
 - Merit Badge Counselor for Game Design, Three Fires Council, 2018-present
 - Committee Member, Scots BSA Troop 40 Sycamore, 2023-present
 - Training
 - Wood Badge Leadership Training, 2017
 - OKPIK Cold Weather Camping, 2016
 - Training Academy, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2021, 2022
 - BALOO, 2014; CPR, 2016; IOLS, 2017
 - Additional Position Specific and Supplemental Training

- Community Service
 - Many hours each year are spent doing community service, outreach, and volunteering through and for the BSA.
- Various other Volunteer Activities for:
 - DeKalb Public Library
 - Trash Squirrels, DeKalb
 - Stagecoach Community Theater and CCT (Children’s Community Theater), DeKalb
 - Feed My Starving Children
 - Feed ‘Em Soup, DeKalb
 - Many other local groups and organizations.

Other Notable Achievements & Associations

- Member of PMI, Chicago Chapter – 2022-present.
- Bourgeois (President) of Southwest Brigade – 2002.
- Member of Southwest Brigade 1988 – Present (*Historical Reenactment Organization*)
- Steering Committee Member and Web Designer for the [I&M Canal Rendezvous](#) – 1999-2003.
- Original work displayed in the 1999 and 2000 UIUC Undergraduate Sculpture show.
- Original Digital Art sold at the 2000 Artists Against Aids benefit sale in Champaign, Illinois.
- Digital animation project submitted to the 1999 SigGraph Computer Animation Festival.
- Demonstration of Adobe Photoshop for the 1999 RSC PCC Training Sessions.
- Snyder Hall Haunted House, Coordinator 1997 & 1998, Co-Chair 1996, Staff 1995. Responsibilities included advising four co-chairs, working directly with professional staff, coordinating committees and fostering teamwork and cooperation, organizing and coordinating the University of Illinois's largest and most popular Residence Hall event with over 1000 people attending and over 75 staff. Included construction, publicity, organizing staff, and other administrative responsibilities. (Voted best in Champaign-Urbana 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998.) UIUC Residence Hall Association Program of the Month, October 1998.
- Demonstration of Adobe Photoshop at the UIUC [Engineering Open House](#), March 1997.
- Member of [SigGraph](#), a computer graphics interest group, and part of the Association of Computing Machinery at UIUC (ACM@UIUC.EDU). Artwork displayed through SigGraph Traveling Art Gallery and Sounds & Visions Digital Concert, 1996-7.
- Original WWW site cited in Web Page Scripting Techniques, by Jason Bloomberg, Jeff Kowski, and Paul Treffers. Published by Hayden Books, a division of Macmillan Publishing. Pages 421-424.
- Snyder Hall Mock Sexual Harassment Trial Presentation Coordinator – 1998.
- Selected to attend First Annual Leadership Conference for Peabody Drive Residence Halls - 1997.
- UIUC [Residence Hall Association](#) Student of the Month – October 1997.
- Elected President of Snyder Hall 2 South – 1997-8, 1998-9.
- Snyder Hall 2S Fire Marshal & S.E.N.D. (Snyderites Ending Nature's Destruction) Representative – 1996-97

Hobbies and Interests

- Board Games – Playing, designing, reviewing, and writing articles about board games. See below for a summary of my experience within the board game industry.
- Digital and Fine Art, including photography, painting, sculpting, and drawing.
- Participating in community theater, especially set design and tech crew.
- Participating in Historical Reenactments, especially those portraying French Voyageurs of the Fur Trade Era.
- Canoeing, hiking, camping, biking, and other outdoor activities, especially with Scouts BSA and Cub Scouts.
- Reading, watching movies, and listening to all types of music.
- Attending live musical and theatrical performances.
- Gardening, woodworking, DIY, and home improvement.

More details, referrals, and more available on my LinkedIn profile: <https://LinkedIn.com/in/george-jaros>.