

January, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

I had the pleasure of working with Steve DeBroux for two years while delivering solutions for the HANC and CAVD programs at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. As a senior manager for a technology consulting firm with expertise in collaboration tools, I was hired to provide technical guidance and project management.

Successful deployment of a Microsoft Office SharePoint Server (MOSS) environment is complex. In a typical organization the various domains (server maintenance, backup and recovery, authentication and authorization, front end tools, user interface design, etc.) would be managed by different people. But given the limited resources of the Hutchinson Center team, individuals had to be flexible and take on multiple roles. We were also deploying a new version (2007) of MOSS, so there was a learning curve even for those of us who had experience with the specific solution. Steve had to rapidly learn a new technology while simultaneously completing an enterprise scale project from inception to release. He showed facility in quickly grasping new concepts and learning the architecture and language of the product.

One of Steve's strengths is his ability to bridge the gap between non-technical business stakeholders and the technical teams designing and developing solutions. Steve's ability to accurately understand and represent the end user was critical to the final delivery of solutions that were easy to use while delivering the value they desired. His technical curiosity motivated him to identify novel approaches that teams could integrate into their workflows.

Steve occupied an interesting place in the organization. He had a leadership role, charged with identifying business needs and coming up with solutions, but he also was responsible for much of the project production work. He moved easily between directing our work as consultants, and being directed by us. Responsibility was handed back and forth between us depending on who was most comfortable with the content. He recognized where his technical limitations were and easily deferred to our expertise when appropriate. What I'm saying is, while he was very committed and invested in the project, he wouldn't let his ego get in the way of moving forward. For him, it didn't matter who did what, or who got credit. He simply wanted to see the work done well and as efficiently as possible. As a consultant, he was a pleasure to work with.

Although our work together has wrapped up for some time now, Steve and I continue to meet to discuss technology. Steve is passionate about how technology can enable productivity improvements and change the way people work, collaborate and live. Our conversations have repeatedly led to insights that we both have incorporated into the projects we're working on for new clients.

Steve is a talented colleague, motivated by curiosity and his desire to apply technology to real-world information and collaboration problems. He would be a great addition to any organization. I recommend Steve without hesitation.

Sincerely,

Mike Geyer
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