

# Rod Knowlton

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I make computers do things.

I'm that friend that can produce a delicious meal from whatever you have in the pantry, except the pantry is a computer and the delicious meal is a solved problem.

I'm an autodidact, a polyglot programmer, and lover of fancy words.

Likes: pair programming, TDD, BDD, open source, Vim, Extreme Programming, long walks on the beach with Github.

Dislikes: Unnecessary meetings, silos.

I believe in the 40 hour work week, and that if you stop learning you stop living.

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## Experience

### **Senior Mobile App Developer - JoCo (September 2017 to present)**

Contract staffing, working on an internal Telerik AppBuilder application for an oil and gas pipeline company.

- In three months, I have been able to knock out most of a six month backlog of bugs and feature requests.
- While adding features and improving maintainability, I reduced the codebase's LOC by approximately five thousand lines.
- I'm assisting in migration away from Telerik Platform, which is shutting down, to a locally managed build and deploy solution.

### **Self-Paid Sabbatical (March 2017 to September 2017)**

A period of rest and relaxation after accepting early retirement from HCSC. Not strictly the sort of thing to list on a resumé as experience, but I recommend that everyone take one if given the chance.

### **Senior Mobile Application Developer - HCSC (June 1998 to February 2017)**

In just shy of twenty years with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma (later merged with HCSC), I worked in IT roles ranging from operator to systems administrator to applications developer. I consider all of those roles as having expanded my toolset.

- I was the sole developer on the first three versions of the flagship Android and iOS apps for BCBS of Illinois, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Montana, all of which were Cordova/Phonegap applications.
- More recently, I was a member of the joint HCSC/Pivotal Labs XP team developing the fourth generation of those apps, complete re-writes in native Java and Swift, which have been released to the app stores (iOS in Nov 2016, and Android in Feb 2017).

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## Technical Experience

### Command Line Fun

While working as a system admin, I had a chance to work on some solo projects that provided business value.

- I wrote a secure alternative to `more` and `pg` (both of which allow shell escapes) in `awk`, which was used throughout my subsidiary's custom Universe/SB+ applications to close a security gap created by the insecure permissions scheme required by Universe at the time.
- I created a change management system for my subsidiary using an ad-hoc object storage and retrieval system I wrote in `ksh93`. The system isolated the developers from production, and allowed code review and promotion to production only by authorized users.
- Wrote a Perl program to convert monthly reports to PDFs, which could then be stored on CD-ROM, eliminating over \$5K monthly spend on microfiche conversion, speeding turnaround, and improving searchability.
- I became an IBM Certified Advanced Technical Expert in AIX 5L and pSeries.

### Open Source

I love open source software, and have contributed to, among others, [Firefox iOS](#), [Browserify](#), and [Coffeescript](#), as well corrections to documentation whenever I spot a typo or incorrect statement on Github, since they make it so easy to fork and submit a pull request within the web interface. I'm a [Vim evangelist](#), but harbor no ill will toward Emacs, which I actually used for a couple of years.

### Programming Languages

**JavaScript:** Probably the language in which I've written the most code, although unfortunately in environments that prevented the use of ES6. Still, I've written web page interactions, Cordova applications (some ported from native Objective C and Java apps), and a custom command line build system that helped manage the build and deployment to give separate Blue Cross Blue Shield state plans their own, properly branded and configured, versions of a basic iOS and Android app that served as the base of them all.

**Swift:** My last year with HCSC was spent on a joint HCSC/Pivotal team porting the flagship Cordova app (see above) back to native. I was then primary engineer on the migration of the app from Swift 2.3 to Swift 3. I love this language and haven't gotten to spend nearly as much time with it as I would like to.

**Java:** I've kept familiar with it since back when *Java In A Nutshell* fit in one, fairly thin, book. I've done Android work in Java, as well as backend work involving both web application and web services (both SOAP and REST).

**So Many Others** I'm a generalist, and have basic knowledge of more languages than I could list here, although I did make [a list of the ones I'd been paid for](#) once upon a time. Basically, if it's not Prolog or a deliberately obtuse language like Brainf\*ck, I can get up to speed quickly. I'm especially interested in the modern JVM languages like Kotlin, Clojure, and Scala.

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## Education

Tulsa Community College

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## Other Stuff

- One time **world record holder** on the arcade game Zaxxon.
- Founding donor of **Techlahoma**
- I'm @codelahoma just about everywhere.

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