

# Sean Miller

## Tech Lead / Architect

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<http://blog.thewanderingcoder.com/>

I eat impossible code problems for breakfast, leaving concise and well-tested code in my wake. I've been developing software professionally since 1998, starting with web apps of academic corpora and moving on to large enterprise Java applications. Since 2007 I've worked on, led, and rescued several large Rails projects.

### ClearFit, Toronto

January 2012–present

2012: Inherited a non-scaling Rails 2.1 prototype and turned it into a scalable modern app that grounded ClearFit's 2012 \$7M funding round. Also extracted from the app and open-sourced the redtape gem (decoupling views from models)

2013: Mentored new developers as we expanded our engineering team, and built good communications with our new project team and with third parties we were integrating with (e.g. Monster, CareerBuilder)

2014: Continued to mentor and work with other developers and experts. Made additions to Cucumber testing framework so it was a closer fit for writing QA tests, and trained up QA so that they were able to write their own automated tests

Rails, PostgreSQL, Rspec, Cucumber, resque, AngularJS calling internal RESTful APIs, SOAP API calls to third-party services like Monster, also added a Java web service when image transformation in Ruby wasn't performant

### Consulting for various clients

October 2008–December 2011

Brought in to help large student-facing app re-architect under tight deadlines

Rails, MongoDB, mailers, i18n for English and French versions, subdomains, haml and scss and jQuery

Worked with Pete Forde on an iPhone web app (side project)

Rails, jQuery, haml, jQTouch, Google Maps (looked at both jQuery Mobile and Sencha Touch for a 2012 side project, but since that had to work on very old Blackberries as well, ended up with a plain old Javascript solution)

Took over, expanded, made robust, and added proper test coverage to a large Rails business app

Rails, jQuery, haml, Cucumber (mostly Webrat, but Selenium for JS), factory\_girl, shoulda, state\_machine, cancan, ...

Lead developer / architect for innovative newsfeed reading Rails app (reviewed favourably in ReadWriteWeb)

Rails, scaling apps, optimizing sql, feed reading, background processes, S3, CloudFront, Twitter/Facebook/Gmail integration

### mdlogix, Toronto (and Baltimore)

June–September 2008

Joined an existing very large (> 100k LOC) set of Rails projects and set about aggressively championing better and more pervasive testing and more agile practices

Comment from colleague: "You have made significant improvements in your brief time with us. Certainly more so than I've made in my first three months at any position I've held."

### The Feedroom, Toronto (and NYC)

June 2007–May 2008

Championed the introduction of and spread knowledge of Ruby on Rails and improving practices: turned a group of Java devs into productive Ruby on Rails devs in two-three weeks

Introduced rspec and championed the switch to behaviour / acceptance-test driven development

Built a prototype Digital Asset Management System in four weeks, with a Flex front end (from a standing start), and invented an end-to-end testing framework that integrated with the build.

Comments from peer review: "Picked up Flex quickly and became a bigger expert than our outside 'experts'." "Solves impossible problems." "Someone I feel safe trusting as our 'go-to' guy."

In January 2008, was invited to transfer to the New York office to lead and train the developers there, and after that led a distributed team of two Toronto devs, three New York devs, and some contractors from Belarus

**Intelliware Development, Toronto****April 2004–June 2007**R&SA: Claims Fusion project (early 2005–June 2007)

Sent in to save the project when it was floundering and losing the client's confidence. By introducing new techniques, technologies and processes, turned the project around so it won the Silver CIPA Award in 2006

Introduced Spring Web Flow to provide a simpler and better framework for work flow across sets of pages

Introduced Selenium to enable testing a javascript- and ajax-based pages and flows

Shoppers Drug Mart: HealthWatch (2004–early 2005)

Learned a very complex domain quickly to hit the ground running on a huge project, central to Shoppers' strategy and deployed in over 500 stores

First championed the use of domain-driven design, and co-ran the original study group

Undertook a massive refactoring of the existing record-and-field framework, which by its flexibility in a difficult-to-test environment was causing lots of problems, into the more type-safe Semantic Record framework

Championed the adoption of Spring and Hibernate on the project, which had been using EJB entity beans

Championed the move from difficult in-GUI integration tests to microtests

General Intelliware

Gave a lunch on learn on Spring MVC to the whole company

Co-founded the Domain-Driven Design Study Group and the Skills Development Working Group

Championed the use of Subversion as a better version-control system (wow, were we actually using CVS back then?)

Recrafted the wording of the TestCreek website on 48 hours' notice before the launch to make it punchier; also co-wrote papers on Intelliware's technology choices of Spring and Hibernate on very short notice for another client.

**CBC, Toronto****June 2003–March 2004**

Devised and developed and central registration web app for all cbc.ca services, with good test coverage and nightly builds

Created a web application seedwork, immediately reused for another CBC project

**eye Weekly, Toronto****August 2002–November 2003**

Created and supported a web application to upload, parse, and format wildly inconsistent raw movie showtime data into listing files; saved *eye* one half person day per week

**ProQuest Information and Learning, Cambridge, UK****April 2001–April 2002**

Designed and developed subscription news gateway for schools, backed by RetrievalWare/Oracle, launched May 2002

Streamlined complex pages with a custom JSP tag library, quickly adopted on other projects

**Fitzwilliam Museum of Cambridge University****January 1998–March 2001**

Designed and implemented a flexible and dynamic web database project, The Early Medieval Corpus of Coin Finds

Ph. D. from the University of Cambridge (February 1998)

*An Analysis of the Anglo-Saxon Charters of the New Minster of Winchester,*

published 2001 by the Oxford University Press for the British Academy (ISBN 0197262236)