

Aaron Straup Cope

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Professional Objective

The promise of the Internet is to be a bridge for cross-pollinating peoples, ideas and communities. I am looking for opportunities to design and build the tools that will continue to realize the Idea of the network.

Core Competencies

Programming: Perl (13 years), PHP (13 years), Python (10 years), JavaScript (9 years).

System administration: BSD/Linux, Apache, Solr, MySQL, Postgres, PostGIS.

Languages: English, French.

Employment History

Head of Internet Typing (Senior Engineer) Digital and Emerging Media

Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution [1] (New York City, New York, U.S.A.)

July 2012–Present

Senior developer and technical architect for public facing and internal digital initiatives. General digital strategy trouble-maker working closely with exhibition designers and architects (during the Carnegie Mansion renovation) to advise, develop and implement a services layer for the museum.

Projects:

- `collection.cooperhewitt.org` [2] — designed, architected and implemented the alpha and beta [3] releases of the Cooper-Hewitt collections website including database migration [4], search by colour [5] and people concordances [6] features and a variety of experimental interactive data visualizations [7]. The Collections website won the Best Research/Collections Website award at the 2013 Museums and the Web conference as well as the award for best Applications and API website at the 2013 American Alliance of Museums conference.
- Co-curator for the Smithsonian's first acquisition of code: `Planetary` [8], an interactive music player for the iPad. (Complete press coverage of the acquisition is listed here.) [9]

Internet Typist (and general layabout)

(San Francisco, California, U.S.A.)

January 2012–July 2012

Combination self-employed and self-imposed sabbatical spent implementing and investigating the practice of archiving and of running shadow copies of popular social networking websites.

Projects:

- `Parallel Flickr` [10] — a tool for backing up your Flickr photos and generating a database backed website that honours the viewing permissions you've chosen on Flickr. It was presented at the Internet Archive's 2012 Personal Digital Archiving conference [11].
- `Privatesquare` [12] — a "looking-glass archive" web application to record and manage a private database of foursquare check-ins with the option of recording them in a public service after the fact.
- `Parallel-ogram` [13] — a simple web application to create a local backup of Instagram photos and "likes" and to make that archive a living, breathing website of its own.

Design Technologist

Stamen Design [14] (San Francisco, California, U.S.A.)

2009–2011

Senior developer responsible for taming source data and designing and implementing technical systems for a wide variety of clients and research projects. Also, maps.

Projects:

- `Surging Seas` [15] (2012) — a project with `Climate Central` [16] to visualize the effects of sea-level rise and storm surges in the United States.
- `map=yes` [17] (2011) — a project with `MapQuest` [18] to demonstrate what their mapping APIs, and commitment to the `OpenStreetMap` project, affords to developers and designers alike.
- `prettymaps` [19] (2010) — an experimental interactive map composed of multiple freely available, community-generated data sources designed to explore and celebrate the edges of what is possible in web-based

mapping.

- *Cheerio Maps* [20] (2010) — an experimental map to visualize housing data in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Lead Engineer

Flickr [21] (San Francisco, California, U.S.A.)

2004–2009

Lead engineer for the *Flickr* [21] photo sharing/management web application; designed, implemented and maintained the geotagging and machinetag infrastructure; primary contact for security issues; primary contact for integration projects with its parent company Yahoo!.

Projects:

- *Galleries* [22] (2009) — a way for users to curate up to 18 public photos or videos from other Flickr users into one place around a theme, an idea or "just because"; galleries were a way to encourage Flickr users to try and see their time and involvements on the site as something other than self-promotion or collecting view counts.
- *Flickr Shapefiles* [23] (2008) — we asked the question: "If we plotted all the geotagged photos associated with a particular location, would we have enough data to generate a mostly accurate contour of that place? Not a perfect representation, perhaps, but something more fine-grained than a bounding box." It turns out we did!
- *Machine tags* [24] (2007) — a lightweight and easy means for users to add extra semantics to their tags and to use those tags as a kind of key in to third-party services; there are currently over 2M tags with *foursquare* [25] venue IDs as well as many other smaller bespoke projects.
- *Geotagging* [26] (2006) — the ability for users to geotag their photos; there were 1M geotagged photos added in the first 24 hours and today there are over 300M geotagged photos.
- *Just keeping the site up* (2005) — it was a very busy year.

Lead developer / system administrator

Vineyard.NET Inc. (Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts, U.S.A)

2001–2004

Designed and built internal and customer-facing account management tools; Designed, built and maintained custom web applications for real-estate property management; Oversaw all web-related infrastructure.

Personal projects and activities

Public speaking

2007–Present

I have been speaking publicly since 2007 [27] on a variety of personal and work-related subjects including Flickr, maps and cultural heritage. I am a frequent speaker at the *Museums and the Web* [28] and *Openstreetmap State of the Map* [29] conferences.

In 2012 I was invited to keynote the *Access Library* [30] conference and *New Zealand National Digital Forum* [31] conferences and in 2013 I was invited to speak at the *National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program's annual meeting* [32] at the Library of Congress.

building=yes

2011–Present

building=yes [33] is a searchable and linkable index of every building in the *OpenStreetMap* [34] project. *building=yes* was also presented as a paper at the 2012 *Museums and the Web* conference [35].

prettymaps, Talk To Me exhibition (MoMA)

2011

In 2011, the *prettymaps* project was included [36] in the *Museum of Modern Art's Talk to Me: Design and the Communication between People and Objects* [37] exhibition, in New York City. This was very exciting.

Advisory Board, Built Works Registry

2011–2013

In 2011 I was invited to be a member of the advisory board for the *Built Works Registry* [38], a joint endeavor of the *Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library* at Columbia University, *ARTstor* and *Getty Research Institute* funded by a three-year *National Leadership Grant* from the *Institute of Museum and Library Services*.

prettymaps, 20x200 prints

2010–Present

Starting in 2010, the *prettymaps* project was selected by the *20x200* [39] project for a series of limited-edition prints. To date editions for ten cities [40] have been printed.

The Papernet

2007–Present

The Papernet [41] is the name for an on-going investigation of how and why and where to bridge the digital and analog world. It was first introduced at the 2007 XTech conference, in Paris.

Aaron's New York Times Widgets

2002–2010

Tools, and visualizations, for data-mining the New York Times. [42] This project was stopped with the introduction of the New York Time's "pay-wall".

The Mirror Project

2001–2008

The Mirror Project [43] was one of the earliest community-driven photo-sharing websites to promote built to encourage and showcase "adventures in reflective surfaces". In a world before selfies...

Education

Studies in Studio arts, 1993–1997

Nova Scotia College of Art and Design [44] (Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada)

Publications

- Aaron Straup Cope, Christine Kuan. "Imagining the Built Works Registry [45] ". 2011.
- Aaron Straup Cope. "Buckets and Vessels [46] ". Museums and the Web 2010: Proceedings. Toronto: Archives & Museum Informatics. 2010.
- Aaron Straup Cope. "The Interpretation of Bias (and the bias of interpretation) [47] ". Museums and the Web 2009: Proceedings. Toronto: Archives & Museum Informatics. 2009.
- Aaron Straup Cope. "The API As Curator [48] ". Museums and the Web 2008: Proceedings. Toronto: Archives & Museum Informatics. 2008.
- Aaron Straup Cope. "Eat Drink Feel Good Markup Language [49] ". XML.com (O'Reilly Media Inc.). 2005.

Interests

- Painting and drawing
- Cooking
- Gardening
- History

Miscellany

Code samples and current projects are available for review on Github [50] and CPAN [51] .

I have been maintaining a personal weblog since 1999. [52]

This document is available in the following formats : text [53] , HTML [54] , PDF [55] and XML [56] . The code used to generate these documents is available as open source software [57] .

References

Available upon request.

External links

1. <http://www.cooperhewitt.org/>
2. <http://collection.cooperhewitt.org>
3. <http://labs.cooperhewitt.org/2013/b-is-for-beta/>
4. <http://labs.cooperhewitt.org/2013/tms-tools-this-is-a-blog-post-about-code/>
5. <http://labs.cooperhewitt.org/2013/giv-do/>
6. <http://labs.cooperhewitt.org/2013/first/>
7. <http://labs.cooperhewitt.org/2013/a-timeline-of-event-horizons/>
- 8.

<http://www.cooperhewitt.org/object-of-the-day/2013/08/26/planetary-collecting-and-preserv>
9. <http://labs.cooperhewitt.org/2013/pandas-press-planetary/>
10. <http://www.aaronland.info/weblog/2011/10/14/pixelspace/#parallel-flickr>
11. <http://www.aaronland.info/weblog/2012/02/14/incentivize/#pda2012>
12. <http://nearfuturelaboratory.com/2012/01/22/privatesquare/>
13. <http://www.aaronland.info/weblog/2012/04/02/haystack/#parallel-ogram>
14. <http://www.stamen.com/>
15. <http://sealevel.climatecentral.org/>
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17. <http://mapequalsyes.stamen.com/>
18. <http://mapquest.com/>
19. <http://prettymaps.stamen.com/>
20. <http://city.stamen.com/cheerios/>
21. <http://www.flickr.com/>
22. <http://blog.flickr.net/en/2009/09/14/galleries-unleash-your-inner-curator/>
23. <http://code.flickr.com/blog/2008/10/30/the-shape-of-alpha/>
24. <http://www.flickr.com/groups/api/discuss/72157594497877875/>
25. <http://foursquare.com/>
26. <http://www.flickr.com/map>
27. <http://www.aaronland.info/talks/>
28. <http://www.museumsandtheweb.com/>
29. <http://2013.stateofthemap.org/>
30. <http://accessconference.ca/about/past-conferences/2012montreal/>
31. <http://www.ndf.org.nz/>
32. <http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/meetings/ndiipp13.html>
33. <http://buildingequalsyes.spum.org/>
34. <http://www.openstreetmap.org/>
35. <http://www.museumsandtheweb.com/mw2012/papers/buildingyes.html>
36. <http://www.moma.org/interactives/exhibitions/2011/talktome/objects/146211/>
37. <http://www.moma.org/visit/calendar/exhibitions/1080>
38. <https://builtworksregistry.wordpress.com/>
39. <http://20x200.com/>
40. <http://www.20x200.com/artist/210-aaron-straup-cope>
41. <http://www.aaronland.info/papernet/>
42. <http://www.aaronland.info/nytimes/>
43. <http://www.mirrorproject.com/>
44. <http://www.nscad.ca/>
45. <https://builtworksregistry.wordpress.com/imagining-the-built-works-registry-by-aaron-straup-cope>
46. <http://www.museumsandtheweb.com/mw2010/papers/cope/cope.html>
47. http://www.museumsandtheweb.com/mw2009/abstracts/prg_335001944.html
48. http://www.museumsandtheweb.com/mw2008/papers/straup_cope/straup_cope.html
49. <http://www.xml.com/pub/a/2005/02/16/edfg.html>
50. <http://www.github.com/straup>
51. <http://cpan.org/~ascope>
52. <http://www.aaronland.info/weblog/>
53. <http://www.aaronstraupcope.com/resume/en/aaronstraupcope-resume-en.txt>
54. <http://www.aaronstraupcope.com/resume/en/aaronstraupcope-resume-en.html>
55. <http://www.aaronstraupcope.com/resume/en/aaronstraupcope-resume-en.pdf>
56. <http://www.aaronstraupcope.com/resume/en/aaronstraupcope-resume-en.xml>
57. <https://github.com/straup/xmlresume-tools/>

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