

---

## TL; DR

I've worked at Google for about 6 years (net of paternity and personal leave), primarily on massive cluster- and planet-scale storage systems. I am techlead for a team of 25, whose focus is the relentless pursuit of efficiency, low retrieval latencies, durability and scale. I'm not actively seeking employment, but I'll always hear about interesting NYC startups that are trying to change the world.

## Work Experience

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Google</b><br>2005-present<br>(including a<br>10-month<br>sabbatical during<br>2008 for personal<br>development) | <b>Staff Site Reliability Engineer / Technical Lead</b><br>Dublin (2005-2008); New York (2008-present) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provided <b>technical leadership</b> ability for large team (~25)</li><li>• Communicated with <b>upper management</b> to establish priorities and metrics to measure against, and to tackle high-priority "events"</li><li>• Worked on production systems for <b>Gmail, Google Accounts, Google Checkout</b>, and several <b>proprietary clustered storage</b> systems</li><li>• Developed various tools in <b>Java, Bash</b>, and <b>Python</b> on <b>Linux</b></li><li>• Worked to achieve both <b>agility and stability</b> while making fundamental changes to 24x7 <b>99.99%-available</b> low-latency <b>distributed systems</b></li><li>• Helped dozens (hundreds?) of engineering teams with the <b>design and deployment</b> of myriad services</li><li>• Handled a huge variety of emergencies as an <b>on-call</b> engineer</li><li>• Developed critical <b>web-based tools</b> for exploring immense amounts of instrumentation data (<b>AJAX, JSON, jquery, CSS2, HTML/DOM</b>)</li><li>• Ran operational meetings, coached teammates, mentored new hires, <b>interviewed</b> over 160 candidates, ran <b>continuity planning</b> exercises</li><li>• Developed significant <b>internal expertise</b> on various proprietary systems for monitoring, traffic management, data storage and access, load balancing, access control, and others</li><li>• Consistent upward trajectory in performance; promoted 3 times in about five years</li></ul> |
| <b>Sabbatical</b><br>Feb-Oct 2008   | <b>Pembina Institute</b><br>Toronto <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Helped research and frame policy for a renewable energy paper</li><li>• Edited a draft report for clarity and accuracy</li></ul> <b>Green Party of Canada</b><br>Toronto; Ottawa <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Member of the executive of Electoral District Association</li><li>• Ran IT systems and helped organize during a Federal Election</li></ul>  |

**National Research Assistant****Research** Ottawa**Council**Sep 2004 to Jan 2005 (contract)  
May-Aug 2002,  
Sep-Dec 2001  
(internships)

- Simulated pioneering ideas in self-replicating continuous-space automata theory in a simple **Java applet** <<http://www.purl.org/net/johnnyvon/>>
- Performed **data extraction** on terms from 15,000,000 scientific papers to explore inter-gene relationships in real time (Java / **Swing** UI, **MySQL** backend)

**University of Research Assistant****Oulu, Finland** Oulu, Finland

Sep 2003 to Jun 2004 (internship, contract)

- Created and deployed a flexible WML-based survey system for mobile devices
- Worked as part of a team developing a distributed, location-aware mobile services architecture, including maps, advertising, chat, and other tools (**Java mobile APIs, SOAP, XML**)

## Education

**University of Bachelor of Mathematics Double Honours****Waterloo** Waterloo, Canada

1999-2004

- Computer Science and Combinatorics & Optimization
- Co-operative Education (six varied 4-month internships)

## Publications

- Ewaschuk, R., and Turney, P. (2006). Self-replication and self-assembly for manufacturing. *Artificial Life*, 12, 411-433
- Smith, A., Turney, P., and Ewaschuk, R. (2003). Self-Replicating Machines in Continuous Space with Virtual Physics. *Artificial Life*, 9, 21-40

## Interests & Activities

- Long-distance and urban cycling
- International/trade economics and environmental policy
- Vegetarian cooking and nutrition, food and food politics