



## Nick McRae, CSM

Owner, McRae Technologies, LLC

Amy Higgs | Business First

### Why did you choose your line of work?

"Developing software is fun and challenging for me. I was hooked right after I first learned HTML and could build simple static websites. It really became my passion when I witnessed the positive impact/effect my software had made in my first few jobs out of college. Saving a company time and/or money by solving business problems with software is truly rewarding."

### How can technology improve the workplace today?

"Obviously computers and networks get faster, allowing people to do more from distributed locations. I believe technology can improve the workplace when businesspeople get out of the 'this is the way we've always done it' attitude and embrace technology. Automating processes, streamlining data collection/reporting and taking advantage of technology can free up time, allowing people to work smarter."

### What is most daunting about your work?

"It can be overwhelming to think of the breadth of the industry and how many aspects are changing at such rapid rates. Nobody can stay completely up to date with every evolving trend, so it's important to read a lot, stay sharp in your own area of focus and surround yourself with intelligent people who are sharp in theirs."

**Years in current job:** 5

**Years in the technology field:** 10

**Education:** Bachelor's of Science in Information Technology, Sullivan University

**Favorite pastime outside of the office:** Crossfit, Brazillian Jiu Jitsu, reading, spending time with his wife and writing code

**Community Service:** Young Professionals Association of Louisville

**PC or Mac:** PC

**Best classes in high school:** Web design and computer programming

**Website he visits most:** [www.Relayd.com](http://www.Relayd.com)

**What energizes him:** "Working with/leading a team. Getting better at anything that doesn't come easily to me."

### What advice would you give to someone who wants to build a career similar to yours?

"Don't be afraid to work hard. Be genuine and honest with people every day. Seek out and accept constructive criticism to make sure you're always improving. Find something you love to do. I literally come home and write more code in the evenings. It never gets old or feels like work. Always do more than just what is asked of you."

Get training, take on more tasks and get out of your comfort zone."

### Describe an experience with a client or co-worker that was very gratifying to you.

"It used to take [Navistar's](#) quality department more than 20 days to collect/validate the data from each plant regarding the engines that were produced/shipped each month. They would spend another few days compiling the results into a report for the executive team to review. They hardly had time to finish one month before starting the next. We implemented a web-based data collection system that streamlined this process and freed up the quality team to actually make suggestions for improvements instead of spending their days chasing down the data. Similarly, during a recent project with Texas Roadhouse, we implemented many automations that sped up processes and made information available much more quickly than before."

**What or who is your go-to source about your area of technology?**

"I have found PluralSight.com to have very good videos for specific areas of software development as new versions are released or when I need to learn new technologies/languages to solve a particular problem. I read a lot of business and technology news as well just to keep an eye on the general direction companies are going as much as the technologies themselves."

**What do you wish more people understood about technology?**

"I think people should rethink their resistance to technology. As with anything, it's easier to avoid something you don't understand, but it also becomes easier to rapidly fall behind without a willingness to learn/implement new technology strategies. At McRae Technologies LLC, we are quite the opposite from your stereotypical computer nerds. Having a background in business helps us work with non-technical people to solve problems with custom software."



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