



Cornell Bowers C-IS Computer Science

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To anyone out there,

I'm writing to endorse Dave Bakken for his consulting and leadership skills, which I've watched him develop and deploy since he was at University of Arizona almost 35 years ago. Dave is a true polymath who brings an incredibly diverse skill set to any problem he encounters. This was true even when I first met him, as the UA expert on software and systems architectures big computing frameworks – the ones we now refer to as cloud computing infrastructures.

Dave then joined a team at BBN headed by the late (and remarkable) Rick Shantz. Rick's BBN effort showcased real-time object-oriented computing technologies applied in distributed systems environments, and the customers were mostly military ones funded by DARPA. I worked directly with him on several projects, and found him to be a brilliant, focused thinker who brings a unique mix of creativity and encyclopedic knowledge to bear on his projects and sees connections that everyone else has overlooked.

After joining WSU Pullman, Dave shifted gears and became one of the nation's top experts on next-generation SCADA infrastructures for smart bulk electric power system management. Power delivery is changing fast: there is a general need to improve power system safety and efficiency, new challenges stemming from climate change and a tremendously exciting evolution in the hardware technologies available. Dave knows everyone, every technology and every control paradigm. The bulk power delivery community isn't always easy to work with, due to their security rules and their quasi-governmental status, but Dave has a remarkable degree of comfort with those kinds of structures and finds ways to be incredibly effective. He coupled this work with innovation in his teaching and is one of the only people I can think of who has taught software systems courses and software engineering specifically for critical infrastructure products.

In summary, if you are looking for a senior consultant who can help guide a challenging effort that centers on software systems and architecture with a real-time or next-generation SCADA dimension, Dave would be an exceptional pick. He has my strongest support!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Birman".

Kenneth P. Birman