

# Abby Fichtner

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I write one of the Top Agile blogs, co-organize Boston's 2500 member Lean Startup Circle, launched Boston's Big Data Hacker Space and was Microsoft's Evangelist for Startups where I helped hundreds of startups as they built out the next generation of software. My background is a mixture of developing bleeding-edge technology for startups and coaching teams on how to improve how they develop software.

I'm extremely passionate about building communities where innovation thrives and in helping others to push the edge on what's possible because I believe that each & every one of us is capable of changing the world.

## COMMUNITY

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Blogger, **The Hacker Chick Blog**, on how to develop better software & better startups (2007 – Present)

Co-Organizer, **Boston Lean Startup Circle** (2010 – Present)

Board Member, **Boston Startup Foundation** (2011)

Editor, **In-The-SPIN** & Board Member for the Boston Software Process Improvement Network (2008 – 2010)

## Awards, Presentations, Workshops

*Named **Innovation Amplifier for Boston** by Boston Globe, 2012*

*Earned **Top 20 Agile Blogs** (2011), **Top Kanban Blog**, **Top Women in Agile** for The Hacker Chick Blog.*

Taught Classes/Workshops for: [MIT](#), [TechStars](#), [MassChallenge](#), [Boston Startup School](#), [Lean Startup Machine](#), [Microsoft's App Foundry](#), [Skillshare](#), [Intelligent.ly](#)

Presented: [Agile 2011](#), [Agile 2010](#), [Agile 2009](#), [Agile Development Practices Conference](#), [Babson Entrepreneurship Forum](#), [A-Ha Social Media Summit \(Keynoted\)](#), [Boston World Partnerships](#), numerous developer groups

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### **Founding Executive Director, hack/reduce** 2012

Launched Boston's Big Data hacker space. Created framework to foster innovation and collaboration of hackers across multiple disciplines. Built programming, membership, messaging and brought in experts to help Boston create the talent and technologies to shape our future in a big data-driven economy.

### **Developer Evangelist for Startups, Microsoft** 2010 - 2012

As Microsoft's liaison to the Boston Startup Community, I helped grow and foster the community while raising awareness and improving perception and credibility of Microsoft in this primarily open-source space.

Worked with hundreds of startups, earning the title "Guardian Angel" to Boston's startup community:

- Helped startups with their businesses and product development (regardless of technology platform) through coaching, mentoring, connections within the community, and organizing educational events
- Connected startups to Microsoft resources and product teams to help them succeed
- Promoted startups developing innovative products through Microsoft's media channels

Internally, I defined strategies for how Microsoft could best work with startups across the US. Connected product teams and executives with high potential startups and provided insight into trends & sentiment.

Earned **DPE Award for Leading the Difference** at Microsoft.

### **Development Community of Practice Lead, Number Six Software** 2004 - 2010

Reporting directly to the CTO, created a community of all of Number Six's software developers (located across the country and throughout multiple customers). Increased collaboration and knowledge sharing across the organization and grew the company's internal capabilities in state-of-the-art development practices through mentoring, coaching, study groups, training and hands-on development projects.

Served as Agile Player-Coach to customers: helped teams improve how they develop software by sitting down and developing alongside them. Earned "**Outstanding Performance: Consistently Exceeds Expectations**" marks across the board for driving customer success; "*someone Number Six can place in almost any role and expect success*" for my ability to come in and solve problems that have eluded others.

Developed strategy to align VA & DoD healthcare portals based on customer research of needs including the Wounded Warrior initiative. Developed prototype to demonstrate vision and prove out key elements and

successfully drove consensus across agencies by presenting to increasingly higher level stakeholders.

### Senior Principal Consultant, Oracle Corporation

2002 - 2004

Application Development Lead for brand new, 25-person team brought together for The Department of Homeland Security. This was a multi-million dollar, multi-contractor effort that earned **Oracle Appreciation Award** for *successfully delivering on time and winning follow-on contracts*.

Responsible for providing technical leadership over all development activities involved in assessing states' preparedness for domestic terrorist attacks:

- Customer Development: Worked with customer to understand user and customer needs.
- Coached team on technical practices and provided technical guidance through design reviews, mentoring.
- Led user experience design, including designing the GUI and coordinating user testing and feedback.

### Principal Engineer, Lightningcast

1999 - 2002

Lead developer and architect for this first-to-market, distributed application that provided targeted audio and video ads embedded in streaming media. As one of Lightningcast's founding team members, became company expert on streaming media technologies, authored white papers, developed proofs of concept to evaluate and recommend potential new projects, and served as chief technical point of contact to customers and partners, including Microsoft and AOL.

- Received **Strategic Innovations Award** for developing industry's 1st targeted ad insertion solutions for MP3, Windows Media, and RealNetworks; making LC the industry leader, eventually acquired by AOL.
- Received award for consistently leading and implementing successful, on-time releases, including the "Utopia" release which was Lightningcast's most comprehensive release in company history.
- Designed and developed architecture for this 15 component, distributed system that improved quality, performance, maintainability (web & media clients, Java & streaming servers, A/V encoders, databases).
- Implemented agile development practices that improved quality and reduced time to market.

### Lead Software Engineer, August Schell

1996 - 1999

Led the complete re-engineering of the company's flagship product, ezForecast, which was one of the industry's 1st full-featured web-based sales forecasting systems, and successfully purchased by MetrixPoint.

Developed a Virtual Office application that allowed people to collaborate with remote co-workers and walk through virtual offices with dynamically created video based on user created floor plans.

### Applications Developer, SpaceWorks

1995 - 1996

Worked on one of the 1st B2B e-Commerce web-based solutions, earning **Gartner's Electronic Commerce Award** for *"most effective leadership in furthering business activities on the Internet."*

Produced custom suites of multi-platform, client-server, e-commerce applications including a purchase order system for Panasonic, data acquisition software for pharmacies and member service applications.

### Computer Programmer, Booz-Allen & Hamilton

1994

Taught myself to program and developed applications for the US Army and the NSA. Including:

- Instrumentation control, data acquisition software for determining radiation effects on integrated circuits.
- Customized installation program using low-level function calls to allow installation to successfully take place within a classified environment, even after Microsoft told us this was impossible.

## EDUCATION

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<b>M.S., Masters of Software Engineering</b> – University of Maryland, University College	2005
<b>B.S., Management Information Systems and Decision Sciences</b> – George Mason University	1994

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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Programming	Ruby on Rails, Java, C#, C, C++, HTML, CSS, jQuery, JavaScript, SQL, Windows, Unix, X Windows, MacOS, Front End, Back End, Web Apps, Client Desktop Apps, Multimedia (audio/video) Development
Practices	Lean Startup, Agile, Lean, Scrum, XP, Kanban, Emergent Design, OOAD, UI Design, TDD, ATDD
Dabbling In	Python, Scala, Mobile Apps (Windows Phone), Cloud (Azure, AWS)