

Tarah Wheeler Van Vlack, BA, MS, CSD, CSM, & enough of a PhD for an honorable mention.  
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@tarah

## Skills

- Technical advocacy, social media, & corporate/startup communications expert
- Author, researcher, academic, software developer, hacker, and passionate educator & speaker
- Senior project & program direction in technical product development & information security
- Crowdfunding campaign expert with multiple international profit & nonprofit successes
- Mid-level structured Texas holdem poker player with a minor in spread/NL ring games

## Experience

### CEO & co-founder, Fizzmint (2012-2016)

Built revenue-positive secure HR automation company with zero budget. Prototyped original web application. Contributed to security architecture. Built and led teams, managed cloud deployment, developed marketing strategy, recruited top professionals in multiple fields to collaborate.

### Adjunct Professor, Computer Science, Seattle Central College (2014-2016)

Introduction to Python Development, Information Technology Concepts, Infosec workshops, Web Authoring, Database Development and Design. Student mentoring and curriculum development.

### Systems Architect, Silent Circle (2012-2014)

Encrypted Silent Mail server creation and deployment. Developed architecture for AWS single-use authentication tokens across multiple mobile platforms. Liaised between multiple organization layers to enable better communication and decrease time-to-completion on two projects. Architected multilevel, multicontinental disaster recovery plan for soft and hard contingencies.

### Senior Development Director, Red Queen Technologies (2002-2016)

Expert technical advisor to small businesses experiencing rapid growth in their infrastructural and security requirements. Developed multiple enterprise-level web applications. Wrote multiple deployable applications in Java to manage and analyze massive databases of social and technical information. Implemented cloud networks with multiple OS and hard and soft components. Hosted multiple e-commerce custom websites developed in PHP for WordPress.

### Technical Program Manager, Spoken Communications (2012)

Created and led GUI redesign project. Developed operations procedures for Linux users. Led disaster recovery testing for AT&T client in multiple geographical locations. Reviewed requirements for stack scalability and efficiency.

### Web Developer, Microsoft Game Studios: Halo for Xbox (2010-2011)

Configured virtual directories and multiple sites in IIS. Led site accessibility by providing W3C compliant tags for sight-impaired users. Created Ruby on Rails documentation to help team install, configure, and work with third-party SCSS style source files. Alternate Scrum Master for Halo. XML and localization files created, updated, maintained, compiled for multiple countries. ASP.NET, C#.NET and custom web application developed and administered for Halo Waypoint Forums. Bungie.net retooling and integration after Microsoft acquisition.

### Lead Web Developer, Microsoft Game Studios: Lips for Xbox (2009-2010)

C#.NET, liaising between multiple teams on several continents, legacy stack maintenance, migration to new version control system. Delivered Lips+5 marketing promotion 10 days before deadline. Developed new UX and UI solutions and custom solutions. Maintained, upgraded, and debugged 30,000+ lines of web code.

### Graduate Researcher, The University Of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Ph.D. (2004-2008)

NSF (National Science Foundation) Fellow, 2005, IDEAS-IGERT. Complex systems, Java, strategic warfare, agent-based model simulations of social behavior and cognitive behavioral theory under conditions of ethnic conflict.

## Selected publications

Lead author, *Women In Tech: Take Your Career To The Next Level With Practical Advice And Inspiring Stories*. Sasquatch Books, 2016

Crowdfunded & performed audiobook for French enlightenment classic *The Ruins, Or, Meditation on the Revolutions of Empires: And the Law of Nature*, 1791, Comte de Volney. 2015.

Crowdfunded, primary presenter, *Technical Interviews For Women*, 12-episode video series, 2012.

## Selected conference and media presentations/appearances

Federal Trade Commission (Seattle, Feb, 2016). *Start With Security* panelist

PBS NOVA (Oct 2015). *The Next Generation Of Cybersecurity Careers*

Ignite (Feb 2015). *How To Shake Hands*.

ShmooCon (Jan 2014). *Syncing Mentorship With Winners And Beginners*

SOURCE Seattle (Oct 2013). *Baking Security Into A Preinvestment Startup*