Return of Roadsoft Staff Spotlights

In an effort to provide Roadsoft customers with a glimpse behind the programming curtain, in 2019 we started the Programmer Spotlight series in the *Roadsoft Roundup.* These articles provided readers with some background information of some of the student interns and full time programmers that put in the work behind the scenes to provide and support Roadsoft. The Center for Technology & Training (CTT) has been fairly fortunate throughout the years in that we've had a number of long-term programming personnel that have stuck around for a considerable amount of time. In today's work and programming environment, having programmers and developers stick around for more than a couple years is uncommon, but we've been fortunate to buck the trend. Having folks stick around for longer stretches of time helps provide consistency not only within our office, but with Roadsoft development as well.

In this issue of the Roundup, we're providing Spotlight articles on two of our programmers that have both been around for while.

Maryellen Trewhella, Technical Writing Intern
Center for Technology & Training

Anupama Josyula

Anupama Josyula joined the CTT as a Software Developer in November of 2021. After receiving a bachelor of science in computer science engineering, she moved from her home country of India to the United States. Josyula then attended Carnegie Mellon University and earned a degree in IT Information Technology. After finishing her education, she worked as a developer for Virginia Cyber Range, a program that

Anupama Josyula

teaches students in the state of Virginia about security and cyber education. Later, Josyula moved to Michigan with her husband and daughter.

Josyula works on a number of software development projects. She was instrumental in the development of the Point Pavement Marking module for the Roadsoft Mobile app. Josyula is involved with Roadsoft and MERL maintenance and software enhancement. Additionally, she is involved with the development of the Road Conductor local job management software. Josyula enjoys that she is able to learn new skills and be involved in a variety of tasks, since it keeps her job interesting and engaging.

When asked what first sparked her interest in web development and IT, she responded with, "My masters is in IT Information Technology, and the kind of courses I took towards the end of my masters helped me realize that Javascript is a hot area." Josyula later explained how she was able to learn more about web development and Javascript frameworks from both her master's studies and job at Virginia Cyber Range.

Aside from working, Josyula enjoys spending time with her husband and children - they were recently blessed with a baby boy. In addition to spending time with her family, she enjoys cooking for them and going for walks outside. Josyula also enjoys listening to soft and melodious songs.

Scott Dohrman

Scott Dohrman is a great example of a student intern working for the CTT getting real-world programming experience. Experience that eventually lead a full time programming position with the CTT. He was an intern for two years, and in November of 2021 he was offered

Scott Dohrman

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a full time position as a Software Developer. Dohrman is from New London, Wisconsin and earned a bachelor of science degree in software engineering from Michigan Technological University. Although Dohrman is not currently pursuing further education, he stated that hopes to in the future.

Dohrman is involved in a variety of software maintenance and development tasks at the CTT. He has been involved with many recent enhancements to the Laptop Data Collector, as well as code standardization and modernization of various modules of Roadsoft.

If he is not working on a specific project, he will find a ticket that he can work on. "Ticket" refers to an ongoing list of software issues, feature requests, functionality enhancements, etc that all of the CTT software staff monitor and work on as time allows, or as they align with other programming tasks. Dohrman says he bases his ticket choices off of what tickets are most important and consist of something he can solve. In addition, he also works on bug fixes and general maintenance of programs.

Despite being well versed with many programming skills, some situations present Dohrman with a challenge. Dohrman says that one of the biggest challenges he faces is taking old or outdated code and updating it to adhere to current standards. Some of this includes legacy code leftover from the 90s, code written by another programmer that may no longer be employed by the CTT, or code that was started, but never completed or implemented - all presenting unique challenges since this code can be difficult to follow or understand.

Outside of work, Dohrman is interested in web design and is gaining an interest in game development. He also enjoys video games and model kits. In addition, Dohrman was involved in boxing during high school and still enjoys both sparring and watching the sport. Dohrman brings a great attitude to the CTT and looks forward to continuing to evolve and progress as a programmer.

CTT Ends Support for SQL Server 2014

This is a reminder that Microsoft announced that SQL Server 2014 has reached the end of it's extended support lifecycle and they are longer supporting it, as of July 9, 2024.

In response to Microsoft's announcement, the CTT no longer supports SQL Server 2014 as of the 2025.1 release.

Supported Versions

The CTT will continue to support SQL Server versions 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2022. We recommend that agencies in need of an update use SQL Server 2022 to maximize the available life span of the product. We also recommend that, if possible, agencies install our version of SQL Express, even if they have their own stand-alone SQL server license. Installing our SQL Express instance is straightforward and makes it easier to create and restore Roadsoft backups, create new databases, and will most likely allow us to provide technical support without having to involve IT staff.

SQL Express installers are available at https://roadsoft.org/downloads/sql-downloads. There is online help documentation available on upgrading your SQL Server in the Roadsoft Manual at Update SQL Server Express. Help documentation for locating the current SQL Server version is available at Locate SQL Server Version.

For questions or assistance with determining the SQL Server version, or with updating SQL Server, email roadsoft@mtu.edu.

Microsoft Ending Support for Windows 10

Microsoft also announced that they will be ending support for Windows 10 by October, 2025. However, they will continue to provide security updates until October, 2028. The CTT will continue to support Windows 10 as long as Microsoft is providing security updates.

Although this end of support for Windows 10 by the CTT is over four years down the road, agencies should keep this in mind when shopping or upgrading existing computers to ensure Windows 11 is either installed, or the computer being upgraded is compatible with Windows 11. Depending on the age and specifications of computers running Windows 10, hardware upgrades or computer replacement may be required to upgrade to Windows 11.

Microsoft Windows 11 system requirements, along with an explanation of upgrade options, can be found at https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-11-system-requirements-86c11283-ea52-4782-9efd-7674389a7ba3.

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Roadsoft system requirements can be found at https://roadsoft.org/about/system-requirements. Contact Roadsoft technical support at roadsoft@mtu.edu for more information.

Roadsoft On the Road/Tech Assist Tuesdays

The Center for Technology & Training (CTT) offers Roadsoft technical assistance sessions both in person and virtually.

Roadsoft On The Road is a customized in-person technical assistance session. You provide a list of topics, questions, or concerns, and CTT staff will schedule a time to visit to work through your list, using your data, on your system. We typically try to schedule these visits in conjunction with other CTT events (conferences, etc), but depending on requests it's possible that we might be able to schedule a few sessions with agencies to round out the trip.

If you're not able to meet in person, the CTT also offers online technical assistance with our virtual *Tech Assist Tuesday* sessions. Sessions are available on Tuesdays with one-hour slots at 9, 10, and 11 a.m. Depending on the topic or issue you're having, the entire three hours may be assigned to your agency. If another day or time would work better, we'll find a time that fits your schedule.

Visit https://roadsoft.org/form/roadsoft-tech-assist-request to request a *Roadsoft On The Road* or *Tech Assist Tuesday* session.

Exciting Changes Coming to the Roadsoft Roundup Newsletter

We want to let everyone know that this will be the last issue of the *Roadsoft Roundup* presented in this traditional, print-style layout. Starting with the Roadsoft Roundup Volume 25 issue 1, we will transition to an email-based system for delivering the newsletter. The newsletter will be delivered in html format, and it will be responsive so that it will be easily read and navigated on a computer, tablet, or mobile device. There will also be a text only version available for devices unable to load html. The *Roadsoft Roundup* will continue to be published four times a year.

One thing worth noting is that we will be emailing the next Roundup to all of the Roadsoft customers from Michigan that we currently have in our database. If you would like to opt-out of these emails, there will be a way for you to unsubscribe from the mailings by clicking the link at the bottom of every newsletter. If you would like to request to be added to the list, if you have a co-worker that would like to be added to the list, or if you or others in your agency would like to preemptively opt-out, send an email to roadsoft@mtu.edu to make your request. Future newsletters, as with all past *Roadsoft Roundups*, will be available at https://roadsoft.org/roundups.

Upcoming Roadsoft Training

2025 Master the RS Data Collection Cycle for Planning Organizations

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

https://ctt.secure.nonprofitsoapbox.com/2025rsdatacollection-mar

2025 Roadsoft User Group Meeting

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

https://ctt.secure.nonprofitsoapbox.com/2025rugmeeting-apr

2025 Intro to Roadsoft: Just the Basics Two-Day Webinar

Wednesday April 30 & Thursday May 1, 2025

Questions? Email roadsoft@mtu.edu

Visit https://roadsoft.org/training to see all upcoming Roadsoft training events.

Agencies that would like personalized training, can send a request to roadsoft@mtu.edu.

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The CTT Continuing Education policy can be viewed at https://ctt.mtu.edu/ContinuingEducation