Professional recommendations for Lou Berner

Janelle Leonard · 1st
Technical Writer at Pivotal Consulting
January 22, 2020, Janelle reported directly to Louis

Lou was the Senior Technical Writer on a Microsoft project . He brought me on as the Junior Technical Writer directly under him based on our previous interaction on another Microsoft project. I had expressed to him that I had technical writer experience but no formal title or samples to show in order to pursue these types of positions further. Lou took me under his wing and showed me the ropes. He taught me the project and task management skills necessary for a technical writer. He solicited my input on what my goals were for the current project and also the future and then set out to show me how to accomplish those things all the while letting me pursue other tasks as well when I showed interest in things. He was able to guide the project to allow me to take over after he had to roll off after 3 months. He has amazing project management and people skills. The best I have seen in a great while. I was greatly blessed to work with him. Because of his mentorship I now have a new career direction that I absolutely love!

Suzette Kleynhans · 1st
Global, Technical Support Leader and Visionary
August 8, 2018, Suzette managed Louis directly

Louis supported our developer clients with high-quality technical documentation and support. As a leader on the team, he thoroughly analyzed data, provided feedback to overcome operational inefficiency and resolved complex problems while ensuring world class support for every customer. He was willing to challenge and cut through the fluff to ensure we delivered only the very best. I am grateful for having learned from Louis and I hope we have a chance to work together again.

Kelly Powell · 1st
Principal Program Manager - CX
December 27, 2017, Kelly worked with Louis on the same team

I've worked closely with Lou for going on two years now. Time and time again I'm impressed with his abilities to not only manage his own tasks (including doggedly pursuing dependencies), but to also think strategically about the big picture. While his core focus is on technical content, he had the ambition and know-how to lead an effort to implement metrics and reporting for an internal site, using a suite of tools and dev resources outside of his regular day-to-day; all from a totally blank slate. Lou kept at it, through many dead ends and twists and turns. He kept shaking the tree and sustaining the momentum until it all came together with a useful and polished end product. Not only is he a jack of all trades, but he has a great attitude and a very understated sense of humor that helps team morale. Companies - and the rest of the world - need more Lou Berners!

Marianne Seidler · 1st
Instructional Designer at Skill-Up Technologies
December 26, 2017, Marianne worked with Louis on the same team

When I met Lou at work, he was embellishing a vivid display of his tracking system for his projects. Lou is a strategic content specialist and an innovator. I appreciate his keen insights into how to maximize customer focus, whether it's improving the presentation of key content or designing a helpful side feature. Lou is consistently collaborative. He keeps sight of results while being flexible as we develop ideas for our deliverables. Lou is a key contributor to the continual improvement of our team projects. Lou is fun to work with as well.

James Dunn · 1st
Retired!
April 11, 2016, James worked with Louis on the same team

Lou is one of those rare people in the content publishing field who actually brings an advanced entrepreneurial mindset to the endeavor. He constantly tinkers with new ideas, methods, and form factors to appeal to his audience, and places customers at the center of what writers, editors, subject matter experts, and content project managers focus on in our work. On a personal level, he is a steadying force on any team, inquisitive and learning from others while absolutely respectful of their ideas and collegial boundaries. It was my pleasure to work directly with Lou on several projects at Microsoft, and also to discuss with him and provide feedback on projects he developed as a volunteer.

Jennifer Beckmann in · 1st
Principal Software Engineering Manager at Microsoft
October 24, 2014, Jennifer worked with Louis but on different teams

Louis is a reliable and helpful partner. He lead the documentation efforts for my team over different SQL Server releases. He always brought a critical eye for clarity and customer focus. Some of my best memories of working with him where when he would share his thoughts on where the product could be better and we would brainstorm on how we could improve.

Ed Price · 1st
Manager of Architecture Content at Google Cloud
September 25, 2014, Ed worked with Louis on the same team

Louis is an expert project manager, collaborator, and technical writer. He does a great job leading presentations, and we co-led a presentation that received the highest review in the Microsoft MVP Summit presentation track. He is a visionary who can see priorities, innovation, and then execute with strategy, planning, and implementation, maximizing impact. I highly recommend Louis in any technology team and will personally discuss his admirable qualities with you.

Heidi Steen · 1st
Senior Content Developer at Microsoft
September 23, 2014, Heidi worked with Louis on the same team

I worked alongside Louis in the SQL Server writing organization for more years than I want to count! As a project lead, he has excellent organizational and communication skills, and great follow through. When I needed help ramping up on a new technology and content management system, Louis was right there, always available to answer a question or provide guidance. I was especially appreciative of his help in establishing a working partnership with the database engine product team. Louis is a smart, generous, and talented colleague. He is the kind of person who helps move the entire team forward.

Monica Rush · 1st
Senior Program Manager
August 7, 2014, Monica worked with Louis on the same team

Louis is intelligent, technical, self-reliant, and creative. We worked together on technical graphics projects for SQL Server. He created a technical poster about SQL that was successfully delivered at conferences. He drove the project. It was impressive to see his commitment and perseverance to get things done. He is very nice and an overall great colleague.

Craig Guyer · 1st
Principal Content Development Manager at Microsoft
July 30, 2014, Craig worked with Louis on the same team

I worked with Louis on several projects that encompassed a wide range of scopes. Louis has a talent for breaking down technical facts and features into content that is useful for users and targets what the users really need to know to be successful. Louis is a great partner to work with from both his detailed oriented professional approach and his collaborative personal approach.

Maggie Sparkman · 1st
Senior Content Developer at Microsoft
July 28, 2014, Maggie worked with Louis on the same team

Louis has a great attitude. He's always first to embrace change and new techniques. Louis digs into new features and products and finds the sweet spots and rough edges. Then he writes about it in a way that is positive, useful, and readable. Louis is a great resource, a fast learner, and a terrific writer!

Jeannine Takaki · 2nd
technical writer and data analyst
July 25, 2014, Jeannine worked with Louis on the same team

Louis exemplified for me the three pillars of technical writing: creativity and adaptivity in writing to suit an audience, deep technical proficiency in the subject matter, and discipline and organization in managing deliverables and meeting deadlines. He was always willing to share his time and knowledge and was a valued colleague.

Maciek Sarnowicz · 2nd
Technology Leader | On a break
July 21, 2014, Maciek worked with Louis on the same team

I have interacted with Louis over multiple releases of Microsoft SQL Server product. Louis has been writing technical documentation for number of features that my team has produced.
Louis has been very responsive to all our requests and worked closely with our team to capture the essence of new additions to SQL Server and to provide best possible documentation for our users. Louis has always been focused on the customer and channeled that view to the rest of the team.

Douglas Laudenschlager · 1st
Former Technical Writer at Microsoft for database and cloud services
July 20, 2014, Douglas worked with Louis on the same team

Louis's depth of knowledge and experience made him my go-to person when I had technical questions. His focus on quality and customer experience, along with his attention to detail, resulted in vast improvements to large areas of Microsoft SQL Server technical documentation.

Jim van de Erve · 1st
Writer and Photographer
July 19, 2014, Jim worked with Louis on the same team

Louis is a strong technical writer with excellent writing and technical skills. During the time I worked with him, Louis consistently demonstrated an understanding of customer needs, crafted content that addressed those needs, and was active in initiatives that improved the customer focus of our content. He also collaborated very effectively with his peers.

Michael Ray · 2nd
Senior Content Developer at Microsoft
July 19, 2014, Michael worked with Louis on the same team

Louis Berner is a dedicated, talented, methodical writer. During my time on the same team as Louis he tackled complex problems, developed strong professional relationships with external teams, presented product documentation in a clear, concise usable format, sought opinions of experts and customers, and tuned his deliverables to improve quality.

Among his other capabilities he is a scientist. His scientific approach made his deliverables better because he presented complex details in a simple way.

Even now, I refer to Louis' content when I need to show external customers how to architect database server solutions and improve their builds.

Finally Louis brings great dedication and integrity to a team. He completes his commitments. He finds places to help. He makes his own team better by being on it.