Eric Celebrates 7 Years with Rigado!

Which office did you start at?

When I first started full time at Rigado, I mainly worked from home. After about 6 months or so, I started going to the office more often. At this time, this was Ben's house and there were generally four of us: Ben, Justin, Chris C. and me. Sometime that year, Paul came on board as well. Not long after, we hired Donald, and moved to a real office.

What is your favorite memory from working at Rigado?

I think my favorite memory is this crazy product idea we came up with called Rebound (branded as R3BOUND360). The idea was that you could attach it to your body while performing some sort of extreme sport (e.g. half pipe snowboarding, water skiing, etc). You could then use this data to augment video taken with a camera such as a GoPro. We prototyped a case, hardware, and wrote software for it all in a very short time. The goal was to have it ready for CES. We would go on to use this "product" to pitch how awesome of a design firm we were. Rebound really helped land us our first big contract with GoPro.

Anyway, a day or so before we were about to leave for CES, Justin and I were hard at work on the software to stream the data over Bluetooth. Streaming the data would allow us to have a live demo (we hooked it up to a small plastic Kayak) at CES. But the streaming Bluetooth data kept failing. We poured over the code, added many debugging messages, and even turned to more sophisticated tools like a logic analyzer (common in the old days). However, no matter what we tried, it kept breaking.

Randomly, late in the evening, I decided to read through a type of document commonly produced for hardware components. It is known as an errata document. This covers all of the bugs in the hardware. As it turns out, there was this very minor mention of an issue related to a part of the system we were in fact using. Armed with this information we dead bugged (a very technical term) and super glued a crystal on top of the processor. After hooking it up, it all started working correctly!

Moral: Always read the errata!

Tell us a little bit about yourself..

I grew up in Alexandria, KY (a town of 5000 strong back then). As it turns out, Alexandria is very close to Cincinnati, OH where Ben, Justin, and Chris C. All grew up. Even Donald lived there for a while when he was younger. In high school, I bowled competitively at and for a local bowling center. I even earned some scholarship money from the experience! I went to university at The University of Louisville in Louisville, KY. There, I found my love affair with

firmware programming in assembly on some super old microcontroller hardware. Never did I think I would get to develop on them full time for many years. After graduating, I worked for Honeywell Life Safety for a while. Eventually, I landed a position at Garmin in Salem. Ben and I started on the same day and that's when we met. The rest is pretty much history at this point.

Outside of work, I really enjoying tennis, skiing, bouldering, and a good amount of video gaming. I also like to learn more about my own craft. My wife and I enjoy putting together large Lego sets, watching Japanese anime, and hanging out with our dog Pippin.

Favorite food?
Salmon Sashimi (pancakes are a very close second).