

Working at Home

Andy Keller

Director of Engineering

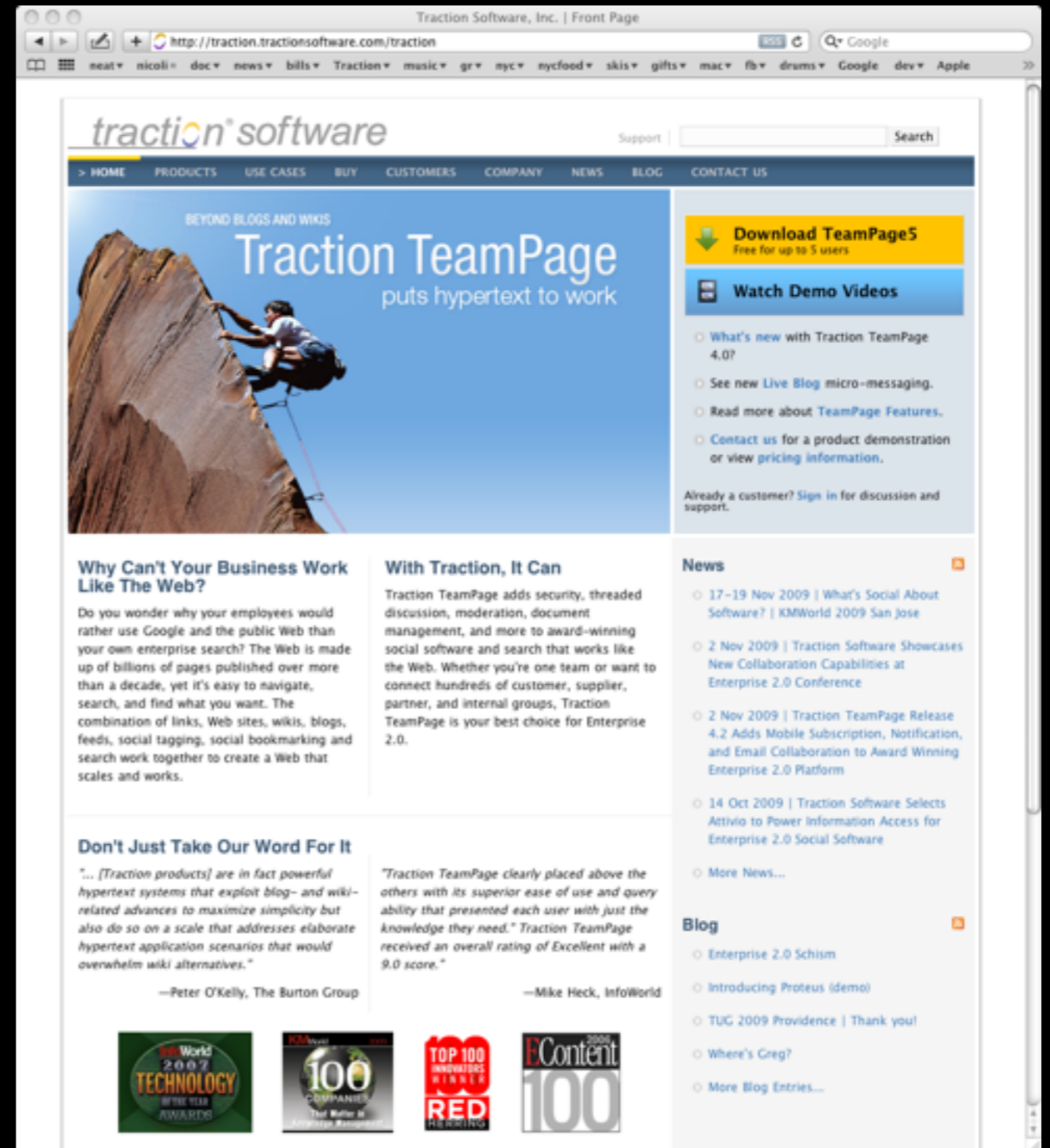
Traction Software, Inc.

About Me

- Moved to Grand Rapids last year
- Started writing software in BASIC on a TRS-80 in elementary school
- BS Math–Computer Science from Brown University
- Writing mostly Java since 1996
- Email andy@tractionsoftware.com
- Twitter [@pulazzo](https://twitter.com/pulazzo)

About Traction Software

- Founded in 1996
- Located in Providence, RI
- Collaboration software for business
- 8 people
- tractionsoftware.com



Telecommuting experience

- 1998 Started working for Traction Software in Providence, RI
- 1999 Washington, DC
- 2002 Allentown, PA
- 2002 New York, NY
- 2004 Four month road trip from NY through Baja
- 2009 Grand Rapids!

Productivity

Negative

- Isolation
- Freedom
- Distractions
- Boredom, Laziness

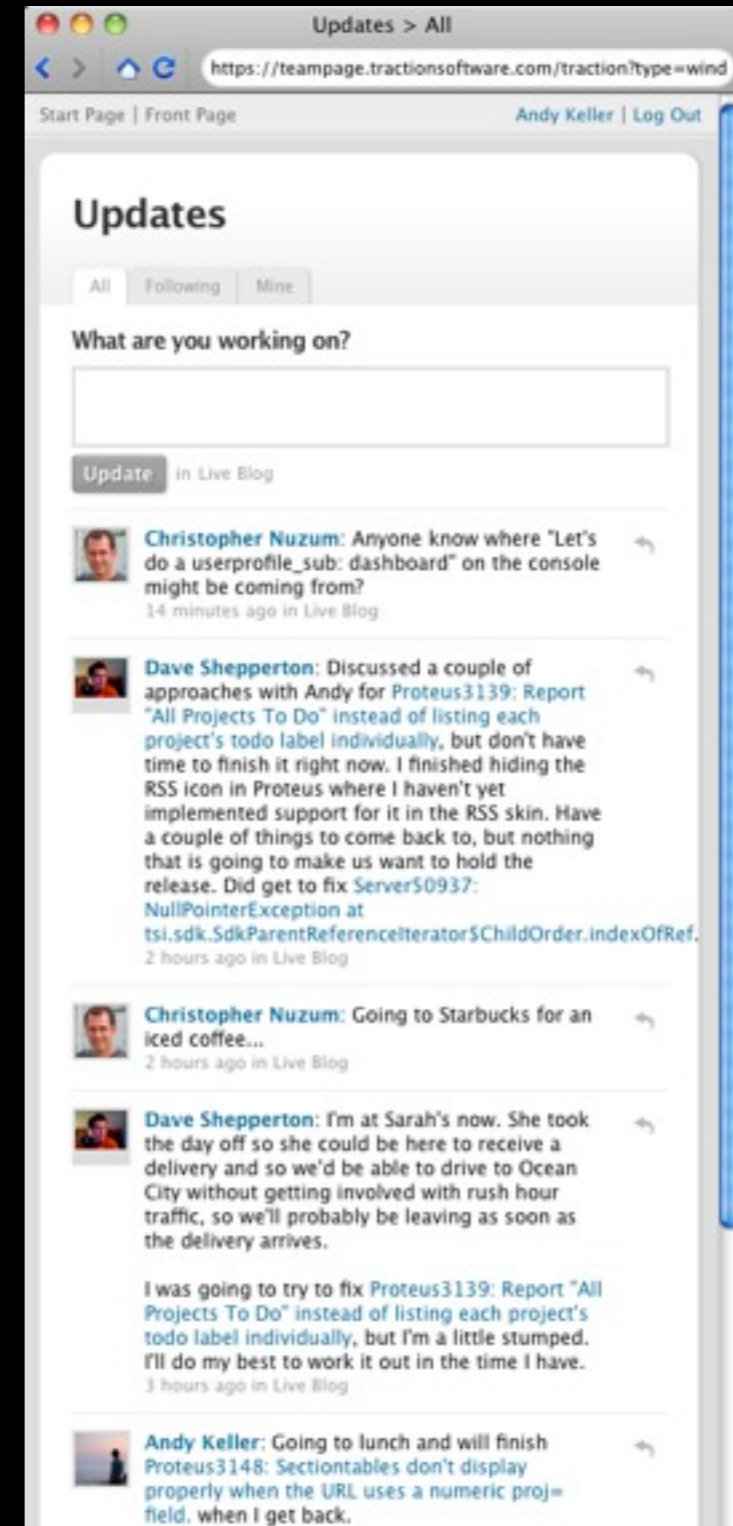
Positive

- Engagement
- Ritual
- Focus
- Motivation, Commitment

Engagement

- Instant messaging
- Group chat or microblogging space
- Regular calls, ideally video
- Casual remote presence
- Coffee shops or Coworking spaces

workthefactory.com



Ritual

- From waking up to starting work
 - Different for everyone
 - I like to shower, get dressed, then leave the house
- Mentally separate home and office
 - Working from a remote office, not working from home
 - Ignore dishes, laundry
 - Organize your desk, don't clean the house
 - Limit visitors

Maintain Focus

- Turn off email, twitter, rss notification
- Separate phone, IM accounts for work
- Avoid news, shopping, etc
- Set short, achievable goals each day
- Protein, not caffeine
- Hydrate



Motivation

- You have to like what you're doing
- You are your own supervisor
- This is your life



MOTIVATION

It's not that I'm lazy, it's that I just don't care.

Limitations

- Pairing
- Brainstorming
- Strategy planning
- No whiteboards

Useful Tools

- iChat, Skype
- Google Voice, Skype number
- VNC

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