

Remembering Bob Lee

881 points by aEJ04Izw5HYm 3 hours ago | hide | past | favorite | 102 comments

I want to draw attention to Bob Lee, a well-respected technologist and prototype hacker, always curious and sharing lots of interesting technical developments. He was a great role model for how Engineers should be respected in an executive capacity as he advanced his career from 'Software' to 'Product'. His efforts contributed to technology used by millions. What happened to him is tragic and wrong; he deserved better. Thank you, I'll miss you 'crazybob'.

Please share your stories featuring Bob Lee, who I'm sure would like to be remembered for his contributions rather than as a victim of this unfortunate awful event.

add comment

dang 3 hours ago | next [-]

The related ongoing merged thread is *Bob Lee, former CTO of Square, has died after being stabbed in San Francisco* - <https://news.ycombinator.com/item?id=35448899>. I've converted aEJ04Izw5HYm's comment from that thread into this top-level submission so that comments and memories about Bob Lee can have a place of their own.

As for discussion of the event itself, (1) please keep it in the other thread, not this one; and (2) please don't go off the flamewar deep end when you do. The worst stuff in that thread is pretty bad and not at all in the intended spirit of this site:

<https://news.ycombinator.com/newsguidelines.html>.

Edit: I've gone through that thread now and tried to move all the relevant comments here. If you notice a good comment about Bob Lee languishing in another thread, let us know (hn@ycombinator.com is best) and we'll bring it over.

salgorithm 2 hours ago | prev | next [-]

The anecdote I always share about my 2013 internship at Square involves Bob. It took place during the quarterly Hack Week, when the company allowed everyone to take a break from work and build whatever they liked. Cash App (known as "Square Cash" back then) had just been launched, and the only way to send money was by emailing someone with a dollar amount in the subject line and cc'ing cash@square.com. My fellow interns and I decided to expand this email functionality by building a "pay by Tweet" feature with essentially the same mechanics (<https://twitter.com/hackweek9bot>).

We downloaded the codebase (I believe it was called "Franklin") and found ourselves struggling to get it up and running. I entered the room where the Cash team was seated and started asking a random guy questions about the dependency injection library (Guice) and various other topics. After about half an hour of answering my questions, he compiled a list of documentation for me to read and sent it to me via email. I returned to my Hack Week team and forwarded the email to them. "Oh, dude, that's our CTO," one of my teammates informed me. At that moment, I was convinced I would be in trouble for bothering an executive. However, instead of that, I ended up receiving a fist bump during our science fair-style project presentation. He was a genuinely cool guy.

[reply](#)

asfasfo 1 hour ago | parent | next [-]

You forgot to mention that the dependency injection library, Guice, that you were asking about was created by Bob himself!

CashApp's monolith is still called Franklin today.

[reply](#)

therein 9 minutes ago | root | parent | next [-]

Yup, Banklin and Franklin.

Bob Lee will be missed.

[reply](#)

ng12 2 hours ago | parent | prev | next [-]

Love this story. This was how I remember him too; I didn't know he was our CTO until after a long conversation with him about some technical minutiae.

[reply](#)

nicoburns 11 minutes ago | parent | prev | next [-]

> At that moment, I was convinced I would be in trouble for bothering an executive. However, instead of that, I ended up receiving a fist bump during our science fair-style project presentation.

I suspect many CTOs long for this kind of work. But their time is usually taken up with administrative duties.

[reply](#)

josh2600 2 hours ago | prev | next [-]

This is Joshua Goldbard, Founder of MobileCoin

I had the distinct pleasure of working with Bob daily for the last few years. Bob was an incredible human being who I will miss every day. He was my friend and someone who drank deeply from the cup of life. He had a way of seeing the world that was enchanting. He was a visionary in so many ways.

Bob led product for our team for years but that's probably the least interesting thing on his resume. He was the one of the early creators of Android, founding CTO at Square, and the inventor of CashApp. To be honest, none of his tech accomplishments compare to the person that he was.

Everywhere Bob went he made friends. He did this by being a person who brought people together. He was loved far and wide because of his ability to build community.

I will close with this: Bob joined MobileCoin because he believed in a future where we have protections from predatory corporations and criminals. He was always thinking about others. That is what I will remember about him. He wanted to protect and nurture the world.

We are taking space to grieve now. Bob is survived by his family and friends who want privacy in this difficult time.

<https://get.moby.app/rememeringbob>

[reply](#)

bcantrill 3 hours ago | prev | next [-]

Thank you very much -- I guess it's understandable given the tragic circumstances of his death, but Bob very much deserves to be remembered as you described him: an engineer's engineer. I first met him at Foo Camp in 2011, and we had a deeply enthralling conversation about building the Square reader. As it turns out, credit card swipes are (were?) fiendishly complicated! (I still tell others the advice that Bob gave me: for the best read, you want constant acceleration of your card -- not a fast swipe.) He showed me the tooling that he had built at Square to debug bad swipes; it was a role model for rigor in engineering and especially for the power of tooling. (Unsurprisingly, I was not the only person that had a conversation around this time and about this topic with Bob.[0])

dang: Thank you for the black bar today for Bob, a role model for us all who will be deeply missed.

[0] <https://twitter.com/yishan/status/1643599340106301440>

[reply](#)

spullara 2 hours ago | prev | next [-]

I knew CrazyBob for over 20 years. We met at JavaOne and at the time he was still a consultant living in St Louis. Bob was always the life of the party with a grin like a Cheshire cat. Eventually he got a great job at Google working on the core APIs for Android and created the very lightweight Guice dependency injection framework. We shared a distaste for both Spring and J2EE by that point. At Square he started the CashApp and created a strong engineering culture. Even though he was a college dropout he was one of the best algorithm guys I have met (e.g. <https://www.beust.com/weblog/coding-challenge-wrap-up/>). The closest we ever got to working together was when I was talking with Twitter about an acquisition of my startup and was getting advice from him he immediately put us into the process at Square. I think their pair programming interview style was the most fun I have had interviewing. We ultimately went with Twitter but I would have done as well going with Square.

Our families would hang out together when we lived close and I feel sick just thinking about his children right now.

[reply](#)

mavelikara 2 hours ago | parent | next [-]

I was trying to find that blog post by Cedric. Thanks Sam for linking it.

Bob Lee, RIP.

[reply](#)

matttproud 6 hours ago | prev | next [-]

Bob was a nice guy. We had an overlapping tenure at Google in the 2000s. He was one of the original authors of the Guice dependency injection framework: <https://github.com/google/guice>. When I was earning Java readability at Google, I was fortunate to have had him assigned as a reviewer. Having the review work so smoothly alleviated a lot of the imposter syndrome I felt at the time. I felt like a million bucks afterwards. The compassion and humility he brought to the table made a world of difference.

His murder represents a huge loss; he left a very positive impression on me.

[reply](#)

shadowgovt 5 hours ago | parent | next [-]

I've never met a dependency injection framework I liked, but I hated Guice least. Credit to the minds who conceived it.

[reply](#)

fnikacevic 5 hours ago | root | parent | next [-]

One of my old teams also liked to mispronounce it as "Gucci" for extra style

[reply](#)

BurningFrog 3 hours ago | parent | prev | next [-]

Ah... I wondered where I recognized the `crazybob` name from.

Guice was the one Google code that surprised me with how good it was while I was there.

[reply](#)

burtonator 3 hours ago | prev | next [-]

This is senseless and a huge loss.

Bob was a great guy.

I met him briefly when he worked at Google. He was just starting to work on Guice and I was skeptical of dependency injection and we talked about it for an hour.

I went home and did a heads down and Guice was a major impact on my coding for the next ten years.

I bumped into "Crazy Bob" a few more times and just an insanely nice guy.

He was also murdered at Main and Folsom right in downtown SOMA in SF. It was 2 blocks from my former apartment.

SF is just almost not worth it at this point.

[reply](#)

yieldcrv 49 minutes ago | parent | next [-]

"almost"

what would be the line for you if that line hasn't been crossed already?

[reply](#)

lpolovets 1 hour ago | prev | next [-]

I interviewed at Google almost 20 years ago, and Bob was one of 5-6 interviewers that I had. I don't remember the other interviewers, but I remember Bob. He was very high energy, and posed a really fun, original question about selective logging. The kind of question that you could tell was born out of his personal experiences at Google, not just something he found in a "ten linked list questions" blog post. The gist of the question was something like "Imagine you have a very high throughput service, and you want to log notable events and errors, but not log terabytes (or petabytes) of data about successful executions. How would you design a logging system around these constraints?" We had a fun discussion about this question for about 30 minutes, and I remember being even more excited to work at Google after seeing that people like Bob worked there.

RIP :(

[reply](#)

KingOfCoders 3 minutes ago | prev | next [-]

We never met, but interacted in the haydays of Java. Bob Lee was one of the great ones everyone aspired to join one day. I remember his work on Dynaop, IoC and Guice. He felt like part of the underlying fabric of Java open source back then.

Today I rediscovered some of my discussions on his old blog I had totally forgotten.

[reply](#)

echelon 5 hours ago | prev | next [-]

I first met Crazy Bob when I was onboarding as a junior engineer. He spent a good half hour answering my questions about how to go about work, grow into my role, and explore the things that interested me.

He was the busy CTO, built up the core service container (which I later maintained), but he spent time giving me advice and encouraging me. He was an instrumental figure in getting rid of my imposter syndrome at my first big role.

We met several times after that, and he was always kind.

Thank you for caring, Bob. You made an impact in my career and you're gone much too soon. Your code, fingerprints, and even Crazy Bob moniker are powering billions of dollars of transactions and will be there perhaps longer than all of us.

[reply](#)

sjohnbs 3 hours ago | prev | next [-]

Hey y'all, just wanted to raise my hand -- my name is St. John Barsed-Smith and I'm a reporter at the Chronicle. I'm working on an obit of Lee and the impact he had on the tech community and on his friends and colleagues. Some of you have written quite powerfully about that -- if you'd be willing to share an anecdote/memory with me, I'd very much appreciate it. Feel free to message me at stjohn.smith@sfchronicle.com

[reply](#)

pizlonator 2 hours ago | prev | next [-]

I had a lot of warm interactions with bob.

Here's a great one: over beers at a certain venerable Silicon Valley establishment, over a decade ago, bob taught me about what a weak map should really do: keep a value alive when both the map and the key are alive. It blew my mind.

This led me to eventually coming up with the idea that a GC is a data flow solver rather than merely a graph search. Something that is at the heart of every GC I've written since, including the one that ships in JSC.

Thanks for all the awesome insights bob.

[reply](#)

bgirard 2 hours ago | parent | next [-]

> bob taught me about what a weak map should really do: keep a value alive when both the map and the key are alive. It blew my mind.

Can you share more details? That's so counter intuitive to how I think of WeakMaps and I would like to know more.

[reply](#)

pizlonator 1 hour ago | root | parent | next [-]

I called it a "weak map" rather than "WeakMap" deliberately. Bob was describing what he wanted, not what he got.

However, if memory serves, the JS weak map has the semantics bob wanted: <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Referen...>

[reply](#)

Lightbody 1 hour ago | prev | next [-]

I've known Bob for over 20 years. I can't say I fortunate enough to call him a very close friend, but we hacked on open source together over the years and evolved into chatting about startups and entrepreneurship.

We would get lunch and catch up from time to time. He was always friendly, welcoming, and supportive. Truly a good person.

I cried for a long time this morning. I'm heartbroken; for his family, for the whole world that is worse off with his loss; and for myself.

I will miss him.

[reply](#)

kelp 1 hour ago | prev | next [-]

A few things about Bob that I found remarkable.

He was incredibly hard working, in the early days of Square he owned the engineering hiring process and was on the interview panel for every engineer up through the company having hundreds of engineers. It was just an amazing amount of work he put into this. When there weren't enough hours in the day, he started delegating, but the whole engineering culture was just incredibly shaped by his hard work.

In spite of being very accomplished as an engineer, he was humble and knew what he didn't know. I worked in infrastructure and Bob was much more of a mobile guy. He deferred to our expertise in the areas where he wasn't an expert.

Some years after we'd both left Square I was interviewing for at various companies. I noticed a shared connection at one company. I asked Bob for any background, and unprompted he sent a glowing recommendation to that company.

And then CashApp. That started as a hack week project led by Bob. It was all email based, I remember how excited he and Jack were about it. It was cool, and IIRC, we actually launched the email only version of it before Square Cash and then CashApp evolved into what it is today.

[reply](#)

mrdonbrown 2 hours ago | prev | next [-]

I met and worked with Bob in open source work in the mid 2000's, mostly with what would become Guice. He wrote this framework, again, thanks to his distaste of Spring and we put an early version of it what would become Apache Struts 2. Man, if I ever got cocky in my programming skills, I just needed to read that Guice prototype code and I was quickly humbled. The best part is he was just an awesome guy to be around. Very friendly, accepting, humble, and a ton of fun. I still talk about this guy I know who was married on the bridge of the Star Trek Enterprise 1701 D (at the MGM before it was torn down)...

[reply](#)

kayge 5 hours ago | prev | next [-]

His story about becoming the Code Red Vigilante (writing a program to help stop the spread of the Code Red worm) is a fun flash back to the early 2000s hacking scene: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EiYs3hXSkI>

[reply](#)

datalus 3 hours ago | parent | next [-]

bruh the screen savers is such a blast from the past and peak late 90s/early 00s tech. It's crazy to think Martin Sargent co-hosted with Digg's co-founder Kevin Rose quite a bit on that show.

[reply](#)

ethbr0 56 minutes ago | root | parent | next [-]

At this point, there's probably a whole generation on HN that isn't familiar with Digg, much less anything before.

[reply](#)

iradik 10 hours ago | prev | next [-]

So sad. I met Bob once at an interview at Square in 2012 for the final interview. I believe he was the inventor of Google's guice dependency injection library and the dagger library. I bombed the interview. I liked him anyway. RIP.

[reply](#)

beastman82 9 hours ago | parent | next [-]

Exact same experience in 2010. He was internet famous for guice, CTO of Square and former lead of Android library dev. Asked about my flight and was generally just friendly.

Before that I had even cold-emailed him about something related to the Square CC reader and he responded.

Anyway I didn't get the job either, but it was impossible not to like him in my very limited experience. Terribly tragic.

[reply](#)

veeti 1 hour ago | root | parent | next [-]

The extent and popularity of Square libraries in Android development is crazy. Whenever you download an app I think there's a pretty good chance some of Bob's code is in there.

[reply](#)

dannyr 10 hours ago | parent | prev | next [-]

If I remember correctly, Bob Lee worked on the Google Android team too.

[reply](#)

ynx 2 hours ago | parent | prev | next [-]

Precisely my experience with him as well.

[reply](#)

throw_m239339 7 hours ago | parent | prev | next [-]

Some great contributions he did. RIP, life is simply unfair.

[reply](#)

oh_sigh 7 hours ago | parent | prev | next [-]

Oh, yup. I knew him as "crazy bob" through all his guice comments, and didn't connect that these were the same Bob Lees until your comment.

[reply](#)

foobazgt 1 hour ago | prev | next [-]

Bob was "good people", always advocating for others, yet also demanding in expectations. I also knew Bob as an engineer's engineer - able to dive deep down into murky system details (ala The Night Watch - https://www.usenix.org/system/files/1311_05-08_mickens.pdf) while simultaneously advocating for usability in API design. Bob was also the first person I heard the axiom "Code drunk, deploy sober" from. If you know Bob, you know.

I first met Bob when I joined Google and Josh Bloch introduced me to folks working on Guice: Bob Lee, Jesse Wilson, and others. I didn't work directly with Bob, but we talked here and there. I learned he had strong opinions - at one point he tried to convince me to use Dalvik (Android's Java Runtime) for App Engine. I was not convinced. A decision I still stand by today. :)

A bit later Bob left Google to join Square and become CTO, and a bit after that I left Google to start Square's ATL office [1]. I still remember having run the technical interview gauntlet, meeting Bob for a final interview, and him wanting to grill me with a circular queue implementation. [2] Bob and I talked about my work history, and it jogged his memory. In an interview training class that Bob and I later gave together, he recalled being embarrassed about the experience and exhorted everyone to make sure they fully read the candidate's resume before the interview.

Bob was always hands on. You respected his opinions and advice even if you didn't always agree. It's a technical depth that's hard to maintain as you get higher up in management, and I got the impression that it's one of the reasons why he eventually moved on from Square as it was growing from hundreds of employees to thousands.

I like to think of Bob as a kindred spirit. We both grew up in Cobb County, both striving to be world-class engineers. He made the world seem smaller, even if it took a Google re-org, some serendipity, and repeated travel 3,000mi west to get to know each other. RIP Crazy Bob from Cobb.

1) Along with six other Xooglers

2) I refused - I was burnt out from all the previous interviews at that point.

[reply](#)

Scubabear68 3 hours ago | prev | next [-]

Finally a positive use for LinkedIn - a lot of Tributes to Bob over there:

<https://www.linkedin.com/search/results/all/?fetchDeterminis...>

[reply](#)

ZitchDog 8 hours ago | prev | next [-]

I am so sorry to hear this, my heart goes out to Bob's family. I had the pleasure of meeting Bob a few times while doing Android dev, he always went to Strange Loop. He was kind, smart, and funny. He was one of those CTOs that still loved to hack and tinker. The world will miss you, crazybob.

[reply](#)

julienchastang 6 hours ago | prev | next [-]

I am sad to read this, this AM. I *remember* Bob Lee from when he was a Java evangelist / technologist / blogger / author. I believe he was from the Midwest (St. Louis?). He co-authored "Bitter EJB", I believe. Terrible loss.

[reply](#)

cnokleberg 39 minutes ago | prev | next [-]

I first met Bob around 2005, working on Guice together. Later, when my startup was trying to get attention, he introduced me to the Google Docs team, which led to our acquisition. I'm still at Google 16+ years later, which very likely wouldn't have happened without Bob's involvement. He was always good about keeping in touch, even though he obviously had a huge number of friends and colleagues in his life. I'm sure many people have similar stories about how Bob's help or advice changed their lives for the better.

[reply](#)

Scubabear68 5 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

I remember fondly interacting with him quite a bit 20 years ago early (?) in his "crazy bob" phase on theserverside.com, and the epic flamewars around Java backend frameworks and app servers. Quite a shock to hear of his death.

[reply](#)

hobr 3 hours ago | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]

I met him around the same time and we did the conference circuit together for a fair few years.

I vividly remember being sucked into his craziness more than a few times in my formative years!

A fun, welcoming guy and an incredible technologist.

[reply](#)

tomandrews88 2 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]

> being sucked into his craziness

Just curious what was he like in terms of the craziness? Partying? Skydiving?

[reply](#)

hobr 2 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]

My experience was the partying. He seemed to have boundless energy for it and it was infectious.

I remember arriving at a conference with serious jet lag and just wanting to sleep. I grabbed dinner with a few of the other speakers and Bob's energy was enough to turn dinner into drinks and drinks into skipping the whole night's sleep.

[reply](#)

obiefernandez 4 hours ago | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Those were the days!

[reply](#)

msgilligan 12 minutes ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

I remember having beers with Bob at the Tied House in Mountain View (maybe 10-15 years ago) after some conference or meetup (perhaps at Google.) A friendly, humble guy who was a great human being and great developer.

[reply](#)

aj_icracked 1 hour ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

I met Bob the evening he launched square cash at a Giants game. Incredibly friendly and approachable guy. He walked in the room and introduced himself by sending me \$1 over email by CC'ing cash@squareup.com. I remember thinking, holy cow we have the CTO of Square hanging out with us on the day of one of the biggest product launches he orchestrated - what a time to be alive.

I spent the next few months / years keeping in touch, grabbing beers, and unsuccessfully trying to get him to join my company (iCracked) at the time. I always loved catching up with him and getting the pulse of what was happening in silicon valley. He had a few antique arcade machines and would light up when talking about them.

The last time I was able to catch up with him was we randomly ran into each other on a beach in Mexico a year or so ago - we got together for dinner and traded stories (this was peak covid). I'm tearing up writing this. You'll be missed Bob.

[reply](#)

staticautomatic 4 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Bob was an acquaintance of mine. A crazy dude and a good man. It's hard to describe the feeling of seeing his face show up on Apple news with this headline.

[reply](#)

glaforge 1 hour ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

I believe I met Bob for the first time in 2007. I was already leading the Apache Groovy project back then (started in 2003) and had the chance to do a "tech talk" at Google, in Mountain View, to present the language to Google engineers.

In the crowd, there were pretty famous people like Guido Van Rossum (of Python fame), Cédric Beust (TestNG), Romain Guy (on Android), Patrick Chanezon... and of course "Crazy" Bob Lee, who was working on Guice and the Android libraries. Very humbling.

I then met him a few times at JavaOne, and maybe some other Java-related conferences or parties! I didn't know him very well though, but I highly respected him. However we had some heated-discussions on programming languages! Bob thought Groovy wouldn't last long, but Groovy is still there 20 years later. He was rooting for BeanShell...

Oh time flies!

It's so sad, so terrible! I often walked those streets myself (the Google office is right around the corner)

My thoughts go to his family, his two daughters.

[reply](#)

KingOfCoders 14 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Someone I didn't know IRL but who has been with me since the earliest Java days. He was so influential in Java thinking like Dependency Injection, loved 'Guice'. RIP.

From his old blog:

"I'm a stay-at-home dad. I used to be the CTO of Square. I also created the Jolt award-winning Guice framework and led the core library development for Android."

I found some of my interactions with him in the comment section of his blog from nearly 20 years ago :(

[reply](#)

geoffeg 3 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

I first met him when he gave a talk at a St Louis Java user's group meeting on getting the first version of the Square app running on Android. The amount of optimization required at the time to get the app running in the limited resources was very interesting. I ran into him a few times around St. Louis after that and he was always happy to talk, so sincere and open to discussion no matter who you were.

[reply](#)

mbernstein 5 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

I met Bob at StrangeLoop in (I think) 2014. He was there with Joshua Bloch and I entered a coding challenge and got to have dinner with them at a local pizza place. He was such an amazingly nice, gracious, intelligent, and giving person. He'll be immensely missed by the whole community.

[reply](#)

brunobowden 1 hour ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Bob was always fun to be around. I was fortunate enough to collaborate with him on the @WHO Covid App. Bob masterfully build the backend in one impressive commit: <https://github.com/WorldHealthOrganization/app/pull/127>. You will be dearly missed, Bob.

[reply](#)

Scubabear68 2 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

NYTimes picked it up as breaking news:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/05/technology/cash-app-found...>

[reply](#)

julienchastang 36 minutes ago | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]

Also WSJ: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/cash-app-founder-bob-lee-fatall...>

[reply](#)

hintymad 15 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

What a tragedy. I remember Bob's code that generates certain numbers: <https://www.beust.com/weblog/coding-challenge/>. Bob's code is in Java, yet uses clever backtracking techniques to achieve the best performance among many solutions in all kinds of languages.

[reply](#)

bootsygw 2 hours ago | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]

<https://web.archive.org/web/20080912181335/crazybob.org/Beus...>

[reply](#)

hintymad 2 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]

Huh, it seems Bob further optimized his code. The one I remember used the similar approach, but employed a doubly-linked list for backtracking. The pleasant surprise that I got from his code was that recursion plus a linked list still beat those "faster" languages, a classical example of optimizing algorithms first, as beautifully argued in Steven Skiena's Algorithm Design Manual

[reply](#)

somekyle 2 hours ago | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Hah! I was just remembering the exact same thing. His fingerprints are all over my development as a professional Java programmer.

[reply](#)

scythe 2 hours ago | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

I was curious about this, but it looks like the links to crazybob.org now 404.

It seems to me like the trick would be to find a way to generate, in order, the numbers you *can't* print, then you just print the gaps between them.

[reply](#)

aaa_aaa 5 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

More than 15 years ago I was an avid follower of him on software development. He was an excellent developer and a good man. This is very very sad, condolences to his family.

[reply](#)

bubba_sparks 1 hour ago | prev | next [-]

Are there any events to honor Bob? I never knew the man but he was a part of my community. The SF tech community. I'd like to be a part of any sort of large public gathering to honor his life and work.

We really need to organize people and do something. We all live in this city and we've all tolerated all this too long. To throw your hands up in the air and say it's "hopeless" doesn't help. At a certain point our collective apathy makes this situation our fault.

Let's *hack* a solution! Let's disrupt this city! Let's solve this situation our way! Let Bob not have died in vain!

[reply](#)

cs02rm0 12 hours ago | prev | next [-]

I was hugely inspired by his Java stuff too. Guice and I seem to recall then seeing his name on Guava and Android code too.

Felt very guilty about 10 years ago when I won a competition (not sure how competitive it really was, but still) to meet him and Josh Bloch for pizza and Java talk. I think it was because they were attending a conference, but I wasn't able to get there. Still have the email from him, but never did get the chance to meet him. His career seemed to go from something that I could relate to, to stratospheric from there. Absolutely deservedly so from everything I could see.

I've roamed around places that have a fairly sketchy reputation but being stabbed at that age seems unfathomable.

Terrible loss, tragic for his family.

[reply](#)

aboodman 2 hours ago | prev | next [-]

I didn't know him super well despite that we overlapped at Google. I remember he was omnipresent on the java related mailinglist and had a huge impact on style and libraries in that language.

After starting my current company, Bob messaged me about once every other month asking how my product was doing, offering insights, and asking how he could help.

It never seemed pushy, just that he really believed in what we were/are doing and wanted to be involved. It was always nice to get his message.

Reading all the amazing impacts he had on people I now regret not getting to know him better. He seems to have been a really great person and engineer.

[reply](#)

kumarm 5 hours ago | prev | next [-]

No one in java community can forget Crazybob. He was one of the engineers that showed path to many on how to move from being engineer to executive. RIP.

[reply](#)

elbenshira 6 hours ago | prev | next [-]

For some reason I was thinking about Bob two days ago, ten years since I last interacted with him. I was just an intern at Square and he had just joined as CTO. But I remember how patient and inquisitive he was with me. Rest in peace, Bob.

[reply](#)

zht 1 hour ago | prev | next [-]

was at square for most of the 2010s.

Bob really was a down to Earth guy.

Easily the most approachable of the execs. I am very sad that Bob's life ended so suddenly.

[reply](#)

kylecordes 2 hours ago | prev | next [-]

I was acquainted with Bob over 20 years ago, when he was a software developer in St. Louis, attending various St. Louis area developer meetings. I remember at the time thinking that he was a startling combination of very personable and incredibly sharp. I was not surprised at all to hear he headed west to Google, made his way up to CTO of Square, and onward from there.

[reply](#)

pchristensen 2 hours ago | prev | next [-]

I didn't know Bob other than one session with him when I interviewed at Square. I wasn't offered the job and don't remember anything else from that interview, but Bob stuck out as a very bright and very personable, compassionate, excited, and welcoming person. I never heard from him after that interview, but I wish I had met and worked with more people like him in the decade since.

[reply](#)

simonswords82 54 minutes ago | prev | next [-]

I know nothing about the guy but nobody should die in a street like that. Tragic. I hope they find and hold person/people responsible accountable. His family must be in bits.

[reply](#)

ajju 2 hours ago | prev | next [-]

Sorry to hear about Bob. We must do better as a city and a community to prevent this kind of tragic and senseless loss.

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ceva 1 hour ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Just wow how many stories, never met the guy but it seems like he was a unicorn person. Very sad that he died on such a tragic way and i hope they find the killer! Rip bob

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kasperi 14 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Bob created Guice [1] and was involved in a number of JSR specifications. Bob also lead the initial development of Androids core libraries before moving on to the payment industry. He was a well known figure in the Java world. RIP.

[1] <https://github.com/google/guice>

[reply](#)

digitalsanctum 7 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Shocked to hear about this senseless loss. I didn't know Bob personally but was a big inspiration to me as a Java developer early in my career. My thoughts and prayers to his family and friends.

[reply](#)

swframe2 2 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

I saw the news earlier and only just realized we worked together. He was an amazing person.

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SkyMarshal 1 hour ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

By "prototype hacker", do you mean "archetypal hacker"? Or did he something notable around hacking prototypes?

[reply](#)

nextworddev 1 hour ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Shows how ephemeral our lives are - need to cherish each and every moment. RIP Bob.

[reply](#)

jack_riminton 3 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Sounds like such a huge loss.

Does anyone know where the moniker 'crazybob' originated from?

[reply](#)

zamnos 1 hour ago | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]

his waterpolo days

[reply](#)

anon7725 14 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Didn't know him, but saw his name all over Google's core Java libraries. Rest in peace.

[reply](#)

bengalister 9 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

I remember him from a tech video on theserverside.com, I thinkg it was on guice and dependency injection back in the 2005-2010 period. He was all smiles, energetic and inspiring. Sad news.

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helosBB3243 1 hour ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

I was listening to the podcast about hidenburg / cash app stuff last night. Reading this news was sad.

[reply](#)

sine_break 2 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

He leaves behind a legacy of innovation and passion that will continue to inspire us all. Bob, we will never forget you and the impact you made on our lives. Rest in peace.

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snodnipper 13 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Bob was an incredible guy - we've lost wonderful tech leader _but_ I am so terribly sorry that his family have to go through this

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briantakita 2 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

RIP Bob...It would be great to have a memorial site of his life & contributions.

[reply](#)

throwaway5959 14 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

I met him a couple times at user group meetings for mobile dev. Always very patient and helpful. RIP.

[reply](#)

irrational 14 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Why was he called crazybob?

[reply](#)

MrDresden 12 hours ago | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]

According to footnote 121 in Chet Haase's book 'Androids' Bob had used this nickname since highschool and even used it as his corporate email address.

Does not answer where it originally came from, but he seems to have enjoyed the nickname.

[reply](#)

aboodman 2 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]

I read that it originated from his waterpolo days.

[reply](#)

irrational 2 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]

That actually makes a lot of sense.

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andromeduck 13 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Also invented guice.

[reply](#)

timcobb 10 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

wow Rest In Peace Bob. You were an inspiration.

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toomuchtodo 2 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [6 more]

eldritch_4ier 3 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [3 more]

uptownfunk 2 hours ago | [prev](#) [-]

It is so tragic when we lose someone who is an innovator and a producer in such a meaningless way. My thoughts are with his family and friends who I'm sure must be grieving this loss.

I know SF is a hopeless case when it comes to getting its act together and I am sad that America has lost what was once such a great city of innovation and culture.

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