

Education

The University of Sheffield

BEng Software Engineering (GPA 70.8%)
September 2006 - PRESENT
(Graduation June 2010)

Akeley Wood Senior School

A Levels: Business Studies A,
Computing A, Psychology C
GCSEs: 1 A, 4 Bs, 4 Cs
CLAIT Level 1: Word Processing,
Spreadsheets
December 2001 - June 2006

Work Experience

IT Technician

Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, June 2007- Sept 2008

Front-line support for hospital computer users, taking technical support calls & on-site support and repairs, and network maintenance.

Catering Assistant

National Trust Stowe Landscape Gardens Tearoom, Jan 2006 - Sept 2006

Behind the counter serving customers' food and beverages; kitchen duties helping to prepare and cook food.

Technical Skills

Software

Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Photoshop, Flash & Illustrator (CS1-CS4), Visual Studio, Eclipse, Netbeans, Microsoft Windows (ME, XP, Vista, 7), Linux (openSuSE and Ubuntu), Mac OS X

Programming Languages

Java, C#, Python, PHP, MySQL, CSS, HTML, XML, Javascript, Pascal, MySQL, Haskell, PROLOG

Programming Concepts

Object-oriented Design, MVC Frameworks, AJAX

Programming Frameworks

.NET, Smarty, JQuery

About Me

In my free time I enjoy socialising, programming, web designing, reading and playing computer games. I am also interested in theatre, enjoy acting and singing, and have taken part in plays at University and school. I write music and play the guitar - sometimes live - and I performed in an improvisational comedy troupe in my second year of University.

I like to keep fit by running, and I am currently training for a half-marathon in Sheffield while raising sponsorship money for the Macmillan Cancer Care charity. I have also taken up trampolining at University and recently achieved a third place in my category in a BUCS trampolining competition.

On top of that, I also enjoy photography and drawing as creative outlets, which have been useful in improving my ability in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator.

Main Interests

In Software Engineering, I have a broad range of interests - Machine Learning, 3D Graphics & Multimedia Technologies, Text Processing and Artificial Intelligence to name a few. However, my main passion lies in the Internet and the World Wide Web. I have long been fascinated by the Internet's capabilities as a medium for allowing people to communicate so easily across such vast distances, and of course due to its leading to the creation of the World Wide Web. As the web is made up of increasingly complex and flexible technologies, so that the lines between traditional applications and web applications are beginning to blur. Although there is still a way to go, this is where my main interests lie because I believe there is a lot of potential in that future, and the popularity of the web as a medium for communication is more than enough proof for that.

Projects I've Worked On

Although I've had plenty of experience developing websites and small programs in my spare time and at University, there are a few major projects which have tested my abilities as a whole.

JWalk: An Interface for a Java Unit Testing Toolkit

Team Project; Utilized C#, HTML, Javascript and CSS

In my first year of University I took part in a relatively major project, which consisted of creating some kind of interface for a Java unit testing toolkit created by a lecturer, called JWalk. Four colleagues and myself created a Javascript & HTML Front-end, generated by a combination of C# and Java for users to upload Java code files to test and receive results broken down in a meaningful way.

CoJoLo: A Jobsite for Disabled Graduates

Team Project; Utilized PHP, MySQL, MVC Framework, HTML, Javascript and CSS

In my second year, the University found clients for teams of students to create a PHP-based website for, of varying degrees of complexity. We were given a proprietary MVC framework based on the popular Rails framework called PHP Trax. Using this my team created a MySQL, PHP MVC-driven Jobsite for disabled graduate students which featured a simple CMS system, messaging system between employers and their prospective employees, job searches and Google Maps integration.

Teams had to compete for the client to choose the website they liked the most, and in the end the client decided to have some combination of both ours and another team's website, which thereafter was handled by Sheffield University's in-house student-run company.

Dissertation: Analysing Diversity within the Online News

Solo Project; Utilized PHP, Python, MySQL, HTML, Javascript, CSS

In my third year at University, I am developing a system for analysing the diversity of topics within online news. The system is primarily powered by Python, and fetches news articles from RSS feeds of popular newspapers' websites, then extracts the article text from the appropriate page. Using TF.IDF term weighting and cosine similarity articles are clustered together by their determined topic, which is used to calculate diversity scores. Furthermore I hope to also implement sentiment detection, so that the tone of articles can be determined (i.e. negative or positive) and all this information can be used together to analyse the topical content of the British media. The end result will be an interactive website driven by PHP, MySQL and Python to display information in an interesting and flexible way with graphs and a search engine.