

William Riches

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An analytical, and self-motivated computer and programming hobbyist with enthusiasm for computer technology, teamwork, teaching, training, entrepreneurship, and the media. Strong in the belief that the best employee is forever a student.

Greater than seven years of experience professionally developing and maintaining full LAMP stack web applications. Good written, verbal, and presentational communication skills. Takes an interest in working with others to solve operational problems.

Possesses a wide array of hands-on computing experience. Passionate in developing side projects, featuring themes of: cloud technology, containerisation, web security, e-commerce, concurrent systems, high availability, networking, cryptocurrency, and context-aware adaptability.

Employment

HouseSimple Limited 2017 - Present

PHP Developer

At HouseSimple I have had the opportunity to work within small agile teams to develop and maintain large enterprise applications based on Symfony and Zend PHP frameworks. HouseSimple makes use of Amazon infrastructure such as S3, EC2, and Elasticsearch from which I have accumulated a wealth of experience.

My primary role is to maintain and replacing legacy systems with modern HATEOAS and RESTful APIs. I then work closely with the front-end application developers to integrate these APIs into their work to produce a cohesive and deliverable product. This requires expert knowledge of PHP 7, MySQL, and a fundamental understanding the system architecture. I also frequently leverage tools such as Elasticsearch and Kibana to track application performance, this helps aid architectural and business decisions.

I have enjoyed working closely with the business analysts to develop solutions that solve operational problems in our offices. This work has been very rewarding in that I can see a requirement through inception to delivery, completion, and retrospective. This frequently involves working in a team where communicating ideas and listening to other's considerations is vital.

Last year I was given the opportunity to go to the Symfony Live Conference which aided an inspired me to further my learning within the rapidly evolving PHP ecosystem. I have since implemented my learnings in experimental projects and shared my findings with the team.

Virtual Head Office Ltd 2014 – 2017

Lead Web Developer & Sysadmin

As the lead project developer, I had the responsibility of managing the entire software development lifecycle. I liaised between clients, designers, and management as a part of daily operations. Projects included remote client dedicated server management, bespoke software development, WordPress theme development and site development, e-commerce store creation based on OpenCart, bespoke development in CodeIgniter for a music school, and bespoke web development for a recruitment agency.

Working at Virtual Head Office has given me great experience of working within a business that does not specialise in technology. Due to these reasons, I was required to have excellent written and vocal communication, as well as good planning skills, to be able to convey sometimes technical information effectively, and manage and plan my time effectively.

Notable projects include:

- Barningham Primary School Website: Website development
- Virtual Head Office Supplies Store: E-commerce development
- Traditional Painter: Server management
- DB Music: Bespoke systems development
- Redfish Solutions: Bespoke systems development

Designaweb (BSE) Ltd 2011 – 2014

Web Developer & Blog Writer

Throughout my three years here, working Saturdays and full-time during holidays, I have had roles in all areas of web development. I came to Designaweb with very little ability, however taught myself the skills I needed at home to pursue more interesting roles.

I developed my programming skills, specifically in HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and PHP. By 2013 I was the lead developer for an affiliate marketing platform. My main role involved developing websites using the full LAMP stack based on mock designs from the designers.

Aside from my core responsibilities I was also responsible for communicating with clients, in both a customer support role and during client consultation stages. As a general IT enthusiast, I was often asked to install new networking hardware within the office, set up the CCTV system and provide IT support to clients.

Notable projects include:

- Animal Health Trust: Website development & content management
- Combat Paintball Limited: Website development
- Suffolk Industrial Doors: Website development
- Office networking & CCTV management
- Blog writing

Volunteer work

King's School Canterbury, 2017

As an optional component of my degree, I took on experience teaching Computer Science at the oldest school in the world. Throughout ten sessions, spread over ten weeks, I had the incredible opportunity to teach both IGCSE and A-Level students Computer Science. Lessons I conducted ranged from topics such as Asymmetric Cryptography, The Internet, and Network Topologies through to introducing binary and hexadecimal to IGCSE students. I was tasked with critically evaluating my performance and continuously improving my methods of teaching. The entire experience was extremely rewarding and reignited my passions for learning. Being able to make positive contributions to other people's lives is incredibly rewarding. Grateful for my commitment to teaching I have been invited back to do additional teaching in the summer, a gesture that meant a lot to me.

King Edward VI School Bury St Edmunds, 2016

Offered consulting and recommendations regarding King Edward's new website. Provided an independent opinion and analysis of a website produced by an external developer. Met with various senior leaders to mediate between the developer's technical language and concepts staff can understand.

Notable Personal Projects

MyNanoCoins, 2017 - 2018

I follow the developments within the cryptocurrency sphere with great enthusiasm. The technology being built is revolutionary and fascinating. MyNanoCoins is a web wallet for the cryptocurrency Nano. The implementation consists of a back-end application that communicates between a JavaScript client and a Nano full node. This gave me great insight into the architecture of the unique Nano network, and understanding of how cryptography algorithms such as Blake2b can be applied to solve unique problems.

CanterburyCables, 2016

Following my entrepreneurial passions, I sought to develop the technological and logistical framework behind a consumer electronics retail website. Developed as a wrapper for OpenCart, I developed bespoke functionality for sales in my university city of Canterbury. In addition I made detailed financial plans and ordered test stock from Chinese suppliers. Although Canterbury Cables never launched, the experience going through the process of setting up a business satisfied my entrepreneurial appetite.

GoCloudy.net, 2014 - Present

A web and email hosting provider that I developed and established following my experiences with web hosting at Designaweb. Required the development of bespoke tools to deploy virtualised hosting environments using OpenVZ, as well as intricate knowledge of Apache, Nginx, Bind9, Exim4, Dovecot, PHP, and MySQL. This platform continues to run a collection of a client websites and email inboxes.

Education and Qualifications

The University of Kent 2014 - 2017

Computer Science BSc First class with Honours

King Edward VI School Sixth Form 2012 - 2014

A grades in Computing and Media, B grade in Business

King Edward VI School 2009 - 2012

A* in ICT, 8 A grades including English, Maths, and Sciences, B in English Literature