Chris Watson

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Personal Statement

A current Computing Science student working towards a 2:1 BSc Honours degree from the University of Glasgow and graduating in June. Work experience from a two-and-a-half-year part-time job in web & app development has helped me gain a lot of knowledge of the business environment, with recent work at CERN in Geneva and then current employment at another Glasgow-based technology firm further broadening my experience.

I am a very driven individual, with a deep curiosity for the Sciences and Technology, and as such have followed technology and computing for years. This curiosity stems from a love of logic and scientific problems and led to my fascination with programming as a medium for problem solving. Furthermore, I have always taken pride in my work and attention to with a skilled eye for errors and mistakes. And in addition, as a passionate skier and previous competitive swimmer I firmly believe in keeping fit and investing in lifelong skills and hobbies.

Skills

Working as part of a team is exceptionally important in a development environment, and something I have focused a lot of time on over the past four years. Thanks to my part-time jobs and university course, I have had the opportunity to work in many teams with different structures, goals and constraints. From every single one, I have further improved my social and technical skills, along with gaining a greater understanding of team ethics and balance.

I am particularly confident with web and mobile application development, with a focus on full-stack development including creation & implementation of APIs and both authentication & database systems.

I am also interested in both physical and logical networking, which has required C programming in the past, as well as a good understanding of routers, switches and protocols, with a focus on setting up an enterprise network with secure VLANs and RADIUS authentication.

Experience

Software developer   October 2018 - Present

CU Soar Ltd (Soar)
Employed as a part-time web & mobile application developer, working with React, React Native, Node.js, GraphQL & MongoDB. As a full-stack developer with experience in backend systems, also tasked with restructuring the enterprise network with a new, more resilient VLAN setup and employment of the WPA-Enterprise mechanism with RADIUS authentication.

Most work focused on the development of full-stack features to the company's main product with development on the frontend consisting of React web applications and React Native mobile applications along with associated development on the Node.js backend system, hosted on AWS. With GraphQL and Apollo in combination, providing data to both frontend systems and Mongoose providing object modelling for the underlying MongoDB database.

Regular tasks also include part-management of the company's password manager software and the setup and management of an Apple Device Enrollment server, along with deploying new devices to employees. With additional tasks including the deployment of applications to the Play Store and App Store, with APK/AAB and IPA production using Android Studio and Xcode and code signing for each system.

Software developer   June 2018 - August 2018

European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)
A 3-month Computing Science placement at CERN in Geneva for university students over Summer 2018. Aimed at enabling students to undertake professional roles at the over 2000-employee strong European Organisation for Nuclear Research in Geneva so as to further the cutting-edge research taking place at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) and associated physics experiments.
The role involved working in a team of 15 staff, creating new Detector Technologies, with Engineers, Physicists and Computing Scientists working collectively. The aim of the 3 months was to produce a containerized system for generating graphs and dashboards from data served by a real-time, organisation-wide API of live data from the LHC and other experiments. The system needed to be customisable, so that different teams and sections could deploy their own versions that present the data from their respective experiments.
This system was created within a Docker container and later deployed using Red Hats OpenShift framework, offering a simple deployment process and scaling features. The product itself was built with Python and Django, using both Chart.js and CanvasJS to produce graphs of the data retrieved from the organisation's API. The real-time dashboards were created using a simple polling mechanism to retrieve data periodically at a custom interval, however work was started on moving to a WebSockets system for better offering real-time data but remains incomplete.

Web developer   October 2015 - June 2018

SwarmOnline Ltd
As a part-time web developer at SwarmOnline Ltd for 2.5 years, I have worked within a 20-strong development team on many different web and mobile application with a strong focus on React Native, Node.js, ExtJS and some PHP. I have had the opportunity to work on frontend, backend and middleware in both supervised and independent capacities.
I have also worked heavily with databases - using MySQL and MongoDB extensively - and helped to maintain the network within the office - helping to cable rooms, configure switches and setup layered WiFi hotspots.
Through SwarmOnline's consultancy role, I have produced professional work for many other businesses and attended client meetings and calls. In my first year of employment, I was trusted to individually deliver a presentation product to an important client at two large infrastructure conferences in Paris and Prague. Such business trips helped grow my independence further and encouraged me to take responsibility within my career.

Education

University of Glasgow   September 2015 - June 2019

Bachelor Degree
Computing Science   2:1 expected

Interests

With great interest in programming, I'm always looking to learn more languages and challenge myself to further improve my knowledge of programming. Consequently, I frequently spend my own time reading about and practicing different concepts and frameworks, while sifting through the latest science and technology news.
I also have a deep passion for reading - whether it is fiction or non-fiction - and often struggle to put a book down. Lately, I have also been using Duolingo to learn French, as I have always wanted to be able to speak and understand a second language. Travel-wise, I have been fortunate to visit many different countries and cultures from across the world and when in warmer countries I often take the opportunity to indulge in my loves of sailing and scuba diving. However, I have a preference for colder countries, since skiing is my absolute favourite hobby.

Achievements

Work Experience at Administrate
February 2015
Prior to attending university, I organised a day of work experience at a small local start-up aimed at providing booking plugins for customer websites. I spent the day shadowing a range of their 20 employees from customer services to the CEO. I was captivated by the programming unit and their use of JavaScript, Python and C++ in a single integrated product with plugins such as PayPal and Sage. It was from this experience that I first realised that I wanted to get an internship at a similar start-up and further expand my skills.

Work Experience at Oracle
October 2014
Whilst at high school, I completed a day of work experience at the international technology firm Oracle, where I was fortunate enough to experience the professional working atmosphere of an international private company. I spent the day shadowing technology consultants, innovators and database managers. This experience gave me my first insight into the running of a business and the professional relationships required to maintain a friendly and productive staff within a company. Additionally, I developed my own professional communication skills further as I sat in on meetings and interviewed various staff members.

References

References available on request.