

Software Engineer

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WHO AM I?

Graduate from Aberystwyth university, passionate about robotics, FOSS, some other thing?

Experience producing bespoke products for a variety of companies, primarily in the agricultural research space, alongside in-house projects.



EXPERIENCE

Ystumtec

The Majority of my fulltime employment with Ystumtec was spent developing software for the Fjord Autonamous Underwater Vehicle (FAUV), a submarine intended to perform long distance/duration missions surveying fjords in Greenland.

6/2021 - 7/2022 Industrial Year During my industrial year, I worked on embedded low power devices including long term animal GPS trackers, early warning invasive moth detectors to protect crop using GSM and user interface and communication layer for crop spray test equipment.

Python / Embdedded C / Java / Hardware Assembly

July-August 2018 Nuffield Photonics project provider (mentor) with PAWB

Photonics Academy of Wales at Bangor

Assisting summer school students in envisioning, designing, fault finding of electronic circuits and testing their opto-electronic photonics ideas.

Electronics / Photonics

2012-2020 General assistant

The Independent Inspection Service

Assisting with LOLER inspections (PPE and Lifting equipment) by testing equipment and checking for defects and deterioration and ensuring all equipment was up to standards that complied with the law, weekends and holidays.

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Health and safety in the workplace / Equipment inspection

EDUCATION

2018 – 2023 Space Science and Robotics_{BsC} 2:1

Aberystwyth University

Joint honors degree between the department of physics and computer science. Focus on sensors and instrumentation, scientific python, embedded C, robotic operating system (ROS).

During this time I was also the two time president of the robotics society. C&C++ $\,$ Python $\,$ ROS $\,$ Electronics and instrumentation

2015-2017 BTEC level 3 Diploma in Electronic Engineering. Grade: Distinction*

Coleg Menai Bangor

A course focusing on producing mechanical engineering Drawings with CAD/CAM (Soldiworks, Fusion 360), designing, etching and populating PCBs and producing components using hand fitting techniques.

Electronics / CAD&CAM / Workshop tools /

REFERENCES

Mark Neal CEO & lead engineer Ystumtec Email Alun Jones Role Ystumtec alun@ystumtec.co.uk

WORK PROJECTS FURTHER DETAIL

2023 - Present Fjord Autonamous Underwater Vehicle (FAUV)

Ystumtec

Created components of a bespoke control system including an occupancy grid built from sonar data, path planner, navigation and obstacle avoidance system to enable the FAUV to navigate its underwater environment.

Created an ecosystem of daemons that leveraged MQTT to interface with micronctrollers, sensors and control surfaces to create a modular crash resistant infrastructure.

Created bespoke simulation of the expected working environment including physics (buoyancy, drag, inertia, etc.), hardware (movement of control surfaces) and sensor behavior (Sonar, IMU, DVL).

Python / Rasperry pi / Linux

2024 Robot Arm

Robot ArmPrototyped a bespoke system that would enable the user to batch process chemical analysis.
Produced a GUI and backend that would control a xArm robotic arm to process samples based

on user set paramaters.

Python / wxPython / xArm api

2021 – 2022 **Moth trap**

Vstumtec

Developed embedded C code for a GSM enabled IR motion based moth sensor intended to act as an early warning system for a swarming species of invasive moth in the Tamil Nadu region of India.

Arduino & embedded C / GSM

2021 – 2022 XY Spray rig

Ystumtec

Worked to on a bespoke 2 axis crop spray tester for laboratory conditions. Used Java to produce a GUI that allowed the user to specify where on the crop was to be sprayed by clicking on images of the crop, and the associated backend to communicate commands to the spray rig to carry out its operation.

Java / JavaFX / Arduino & embedded C

2021 – 2022 GPS collar

Ystumtec

Prototyped a GPS animal collar for research on tame and wild animals, included collars, remote basestations and handheld interface device. Used embedded C to handle low power device operation, GPS handling, memory management, radio data download, remote collar release.

Arduino & embedded C / Soldering / 3D Modelling

PERSONAL PROJECTS

Slime VR trackers

Manufactured a full body set of slime VR trackers for myself and a friend, intend to contribute to the open source tracking software.

Soldering / PlatformIO / VR

Reused vape battery bank

Manufactured a battery bank out of improperly disposed of vape batteries based on open source designs. This involved manufacturing PCBs, safe disassembly of the used vapes and assembly of battery bank.

Soldering / Open Source

Homelab

Maintain a homelab for private instances of Immich and Nextcloud for home file storage and backup using Docker.

Linux / Docker / Lighttpd

Laser based Navigational Compass

During my time with PAWB, I produced a working prototype of a novel compass design that made use of a non dispersive Amci roof prism to digitise a magnetic compass bearing.

Soldeirng / Circuit Design / Photonics

SKILLS

HOBBIES

Driving license - Fully qualified Hand tools &soldering English - Native Welsh - Simple

In my spare time, I enjoy baking for my DnD group, reading science fiction, spending time in VR, developing content for VRchat and appreciating the beautiful outdoors around Aberystwyth.