

Christopher Benjamin Ashton

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Profile

I am a creative, organised and highly efficient web developer and final-year Software Engineering student, *currently looking for a full-time position in London starting in August 2015*. Following a 13-month industrial placement at the BBC, I continue to contract for them and other clients through my company, managing a small team of developers and designers.

Key Achievements and Skills

- **Front-end web development** – Masterful use of cutting-edge, enterprise-level techniques, demonstrated during my 13-month industrial year placement at the BBC. I develop modular, object-oriented, unobtrusive JavaScript in a test-driven way. Passionate about progressive enhancement, self-documenting code, feature detection and backwards compatibility.
 - Demonstrated these skills as the sole developer for the Commonwealth Games Quiz: <http://bbc.in/1lI3XHE>; within 24 hours it was the most read and shared article on BBC News, viewed in the UK 1.7 million times, shared on social media well over 20,000 times and featured on BBC Breakfast. Developed to support internationalisation, I also took the initiative to translate it into Welsh: <http://bbc.in/1nDNxjD>
 - **JavaScript** – Experienced with both functional and OO JavaScript, publish/subscribe and MVC design patterns, jQuery, RequireJS, AJAX, Jasmine, CasperJS, Node.
 - **Responsive web design** – <http://reff.it> - fully responsive web app allowing users to share snippets of text rather than long web pages. Developed using a “mobile first” Bootstrap front-end, supported by a MySQL, PDO and OO PHP backend.
 - **WordPress** - <http://hover-bike.com> - hand-built a custom, responsive theme; <http://voicecouncil.com> - bespoke plugin for the slideshow and app review format. Both of these use CSS3 and SASS (using BEM syntax).
 - **WebGL** - <http://users.aber.ac.uk/cba1/webgl/source> - Solar System 3D Visualisation. Developed for a university assignment and achieved 89% (a high first).
 - **Search Engine Optimisation** – Implemented semantic HTML5 and schema markup for improved search rankings. Modified .htaccess to use SEO-friendly URLs.
 - **Other technologies** – Exceptional use of Ruby and Cucumber for regression testing, Grunt, Node, Git, Travis CI and Java. Some experience of cloud computing (AWS), Python, C, C++, Perl and Bash.
- **Technical leadership** – Regularly delegate units of my company’s work to subcontractors, code-reviewing it to ensure that standards are followed and that the overall design of the codebase remains cohesive, delivering high-quality, robust web solutions on time.
- **Project management** – Use my own installation of JIRA to manage the logistics of my company tasks, including negotiating and delegating work to subcontractors. Planned and ran weekly rehearsals as Choral Director of the Elizabethan Madrigal Singers.
- **Efficiency** – Developed a ‘common tasks’ toolkit at the BBC, cutting the time taken to perform some tasks down from half an hour to under a minute and removing one of our last dependencies on legacy systems. Templated the ‘datapic’ format: <http://bit.ly/1wT6XTz>

Employment

08/2014 – Present **Webdapper Ltd – Founder**

My company offers web development and design solutions, specialising in front-end and responsive technologies. My biggest client is the BBC, for whom I maintain development frameworks used by the Visual Journalism team.

07/2013 – 08/2014 **BBC – Trainee Web Developer**

Regularly created bespoke, self-contained applications within tight deadlines for the BBC News website, with an audience of millions. Built and maintained toolkits and frameworks to ease development and production workflows.

06/2012 – 08/2014 **VoiceCouncil Magazine – Freelance Web Developer**

Generated 10,000 likes on Facebook through carefully planned advertising campaigns. Developed bespoke plugins for the WordPress site and performed general site maintenance.

07/2010 - 09/2011 **NatWest Bank - Customer Service Officer**

Gained skills in record keeping and in maintaining professionalism under pressure, communicating through the medium of Welsh where required.

Education

2011 - Present **Aberystwyth University**

Software Engineering (BEng) - Accredited by the BCS

Expected outcome: 1st Class Honours

Average grade achieved throughout university: 83%.

Key modules:

Developing Internet-Based Applications (Rails) – 84%; Advanced Computer Graphics (WebGL) – 79%; Interactive Web Programming (2D canvas) – 86%; Web Programming (PHP/SQL) – 94%; C++, C and Java Programming Paradigms – 82%

Dissertation: *Online Dispute Resolution for Maritime Collisions* – an open-source ODR platform with plugin support, making automated resolutions possible using artificial intelligence. Built following an agile, BDD methodology. Technologies include an OO PHP MVC framework, and Ruby and Cucumber for end-to-end testing. <http://smartresolution.org>

2003 - 2010 **Ysgol Gyfun Llanbedr Pont Steffan**

3 A Levels: Mathematics (A), Music (A), Chemistry (B)

1 AS Level: Biology (B)

13 GCSEs: 11 at grade A*/A

Interests

I have always been a keen chorister and was a member of the *National Youth Choir of Wales* for two years. At university, I joined the *Elizabethan Madrigal Singers*, maintaining the position of Choral Director in my second year. I'm currently a first tenor in the *BBC Symphony Chorus*, regularly performing complex choral repertoire at internationally televised concerts.

Referees

References and/or referee contact details are available upon request.