Christopher Benjamin Ashton

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Profile

I am a creative, organised and highly efficient full-stack web developer *looking for work in London starting in August 2015*. I am also a 1st class Software Engineering graduate, a tenor in the BBC Symphony Chorus, and founder of Webdapper Ltd, whose clients include the BBC.

Key Achievements and Skills

- **Full-stack web development** – passionate about test-driven, self-documenting, clean and collaborative code. I specialise in front-end web development.

    - **JavaScript** - masterful development of modular, object-oriented, unobtrusive JavaScript developed through TDD, using progressive enhancement to support backwards compatibility. Familiar with publish/subscribe and MVC design patterns, jQuery, RequireJS, AJAX, Jasmine, CasperJS, Node.

    - **Other front-end technologies** – SASS, CSS3 and BEM syntax. Responsive web design: developed http://reff.it using "mobile first" Bootstrap front-end, a web app allowing users to share snippets of text rather than long web pages. Implemented semantic HTML5 and schema markup and modified Apache to use SEO-friendly URLs. Developed a 3D visualisation of the solar system in WebGL (university assignment, achieving 89%): http://users.aber.ac.uk/cba1/webgl/source

    - I was the sole developer of the Commonwealth Games Quiz: http://bbc.in/1Il3XHE, the most read/shared article on BBC News on the day of publication (viewed 1.7 million times, shared 20,000 times) and featured on BBC Breakfast. Developed to support internationalisation, I translated it into Welsh: http://bbc.in/1nDNxjD

    - **Back-end technologies** – highly experienced with OO PHP (v5.4+), MVCR architecture, PHP unit tests (TDD), Ruby and Cucumber integration tests (BDD), Bash, Java, SQL, Node, Grunt, WordPress (http://voicecouncil.com - bespoke responsive theme, custom plugin for the slideshow and app review formats). Knowledge of XSS and prevention of SQL injection through PDO. Some experience of Zend, Ruby on Rails, AWS, C, C++, Perl, Python.

    - **Agile/Scrum** – worked in scrum sprints when working on IDT in BBC. Employed agile techniques including continuous integration (Travis CI), pair programming, code reviews and refactoring. Regular stand-ups, sprint planning and retrospectives.

- **Technical leadership** – assign tasks to subcontractors through my own installation of JIRA, managing their time alongside project deadlines and code reviewing their work on GitHub to ensure the code remains maintainable. Good communication skills, demonstrated through giving a well-received presentation to 40 developers on a technical subject while at the BBC.

- **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

- **Testing** – hand-built a custom Node implementation of Cucumber for BDD testing at the BBC. Manually tested web apps in multiple browsers, including use of virtual machines to test older versions of IE. Device-tested applications across new and old Android/iOS devices to validate application behaviour and responsiveness.

Employment

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

My company offers end-to-end web development solutions to clients including the BBC. I project-manage and lead technical implementations by subcontracting work to a team of trusted developers and designers, accommodating differing schedules, managing expectations and regularly code reviewing to ensure codebase cohesiveness.

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

Created multiple self-contained, robustly tested, bespoke responsive applications within tight deadlines for the BBC News website, delivering to 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, Ceredigion** - *Customer Service Officer*

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

Education

09/2011 – 05/2015   **Aberystwyth University, Ceredigion** – *Software Engineering*
Expected: 1st Class BEng (Hons), BCS-accredited. Average mark to date: 83%

Key modules: *Developing Internet-Based Applications* (Ruby on 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 MVCR framework, and Ruby and Cucumber for end-to-end testing. http://smartresolution.org

2003 - 2010   **Ysgol Gyfun Llanbedr Pont Steffan, Ceredigion**
A Levels: Mathematics (A), Music (A), Chemistry (B)
AS Level: Biology (B)
GCSEs: 13 total, 11 at grade A*/A

Interests

I'm currently a tenor in the *BBC Symphony Chorus* and regularly perform complex choral repertoire at internationally televised concerts. Previously: *National Youth Choir of Wales* (Tenor: two years), *Elizabethan Madrigal Singers* (Choral Director: one year, Tenor: three years).

Referees

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