

Christopher Benjamin ASHTON

Email: hi AT chrisashton DOT co (apologies – this is a public CV); Website: <http://ashton.codes>

Profile

I am a creative, organised and highly efficient web developer, and managing director of Webdapper Ltd. After a prosperous year at the BBC in London, I'm now completing my final year studying Software Engineering at Aberystwyth University, and am on track for a first.

Key Achievements and Skills

- **Front-end web development** – Developed applications using object-oriented and unobtrusive JavaScript (modularised using RequireJS) and Jasmine unit tests, SASS and CSS, HTML5, XHTML validation, cross-browser testing and backwards compatibility.
 - <http://bbc.in/1lI3XHE> - Commonwealth Games Calculator. Developed by myself with a designer and a journalist, this was featured on BBC Breakfast. It was the most read and shared article on BBC News in its first 24 hours, viewed by 1.7 million people in the UK with an 80-90% completion rate, and shared on social media well over 20,000 times. I took the initiative to translate it into Welsh: <http://bbc.in/1nDNxjD>
 - <http://bbc.in/Y9ZthR> - Doctor Who 50th Anniversary Special.
 - <http://aliceholmes.org.uk/> - Site built as part of a friend's final year university project.
- **Back-end web development** – Test-driven object-oriented PHP, Ruby and Cucumber for regression testing, SQL, Node, cloud computing (including AWS).
- **Responsive web design** – Designed and developed websites “mobile first”, progressively enhancing to richer content, scaling content to fit all screen sizes.
 - <http://hover-bike.com/> - built bespoke responsive WordPress theme with heavy configuration of WooCommerce store plugin, and bespoke menus and galleries.
 - <http://tubespotted.com> - built from scratch: fully responsive web app allowing anonymous posts and comments from users of the London Underground.
 - <http://voicecouncil.com/> - developed custom WordPress plugins for slideshows, app review formats and competition entries.
- **Search Engine Optimisation** - Implemented semantic schema markup for improved search rankings. Modified .htaccess to use SEO-friendly URLs. Made changes to BBC's iframe scaffold using Git pull requests, leading to improvements in SEO and accessibility.
- **Programming** – Achieved firsts in every assignment at university so far, including C, C++, and three in Java (one group and two individual). Achieved 95% in a web assignment requiring PHP, JavaScript and SQL.
- **Organised** – Use my own installation of JIRA to plan and track freelance projects and daily tasks. Planned and ran weekly rehearsals as Choral Director of the Elizabethan Madrigal Singers. Lead tenant for my student house.
- **Entrepreneurial** – Run my own web company. Raised £3000 through organising events in order to go on an expedition to Tanzania, where we helped to build a school.
- **Numeracy** - won the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust “Best in School” certificate.

Education

- 2011 - Present **Aberystwyth University**
Software Engineering (BEng) - Fully Accredited by the BCS
Expected outcome: 1st Class Honours
Average module grade achieved last semester: 88.33%
- 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
- 2009 **The Open University**
Elements of forensic science - 10 credits - Pass

Employment

- 08/2014 – Present **Webdapper Ltd – Managing Director**
We offer web development, web design and software engineering solutions, ranging from end-to-end product delivery to general website maintenance and consultancy services.
- 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 - Marketing Manager & Web Developer**
Generated 10,000 likes on Facebook through carefully planned campaigns. Developed bespoke plugins for the WordPress site and performed general site maintenance.
- 07/2010 - 01/2012 **NatWest Bank - Customer Service Officer**
Gained skills in record keeping, maintained professionalism under pressure, communicated with customers through the medium of Welsh when required. Worked 30 hours per week on my gap year, and on call thereafter.

Interests

Though much of my spare time is devoted to running my company, I am a keen member of the BBC Symphony Chorus; regularly performing complex choral repertoire at internationally televised concerts including the Last Night of the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall. At Aberystwyth I'm currently a member of the Elizabethan Madrigal Singers, whom I myself conducted during my second year at university. Historically, I was a member of the National Youth Choir of Wales for two years.

Referees

Tom Maslen, Tech Lead - BBC Visual Journalism.
Neil Taylor, Lecturer – Aberystwyth University.

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