

Darren Atherton

Profile

A motivated, goal driven graduate/junior software developer with a strong academic background and one year of industry experience who is seeking new challenges within the software development realm. I am passionate about technology and delivering high-quality software products grounded in clean, well-structured code.

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Education

- BSc Computer Information Systems, University of Liverpool 2010 - 2013
 - **Award:** First-class honours.
 - **Notable modules:** Programming in Java (84%), Mobile Computing - iOS (90%), Group Software Project (80%), Software Development Tools (87%), Multi-Agent Systems (90%), Technologies for E-Commerce (95%) and Experimental Methods in Computing (87%).
 - **Dissertation:** 'A Motivational Interface to a Personalised Tool to Monitor Children's Language Development'. This project involved research into persuasive technology with a focus on behaviour change. Following this, I implemented an application which allowed parents to track their child's language development and milestones on a customisable timeline, whilst receiving personalised information about their child. The application was implemented natively on iOS with Objective-C in Xcode, and the corresponding web server was implemented using PHP with the database using MySQL.
- PhD Computer Science, University of Liverpool 2014 - 2015
 - **Status:** Withdrawn from studies with 1 year completed successfully.
 - **Work undertaken:** 'Combining Persuasive Technology and Motivation Theories for Children's Language Development'. This project is a continuation of my undergraduate dissertation, attempting to combine notions from artificial intelligence, persuasive technology and behaviour change/motivation theories to develop dynamic, intelligent motivational applications for the purpose of motivating parents to help their young children acquire language. During this time, I undertook this research as a member of the Agent ART research group and in the context of the International Centre for Language and Communicative Development (LuCiD). For this project, I gained a great amount of knowledge on argument and computation theory, artificial intelligence, user modelling, persuasive/motivational technologies, behavioural theory and application interaction design. During this project I also gained important writing and communication skills, by submitting research material to peer-reviewed publication venues and giving corresponding presentations.
- BTEC National Diploma for IT Practitioners, Liverpool Community College 2008 - 2010
 - **Award:** Distinction, Distinction, Distinction.
- GCSE, Halewood College 2002 - 2007
 - **Award:** 9 GCSE's graded A-C, including Mathematics and English.

Awards and Activities

- Awarded an attainment Scholarship each year for continuous achievement throughout my undergraduate degree - Department of Computer Science, University of Liverpool (2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13).
- Awarded a EPSRC Doctoral Training Studentship for the duration of my PhD - Department of Computer Science, University of Liverpool (2014 - present).

- Published a two-page abstract and gave a corresponding 20 minute presentation on - ‘Personalising Motivation: Combining Motivation Theories and Persuasive Technology for Children’s Language Development’ - Doctoral Consortium, Persuasive Conference 2015, Chicago, Illinois.

Work Experience

- Software Engineer/Technical Consultant, Momote (MyMobileWorkers) Jul 2013 - Aug 2014
 - MyMobileWorkers provides off-the-shelf dynamic mobile workforce management software for businesses offering features such as field service management, proof of delivery support and asset tracking. As a software developer for MyMobileWorkers, I was responsible for working on four (cooperating) systems:
 1. A web API, developed with Java EE and MySQL and deployed to Glassfish Server, which served as an integration point for companies through which they had full CRUD access to their field service data. I was also responsible for integrating the API with the Zapier service through which companies could connect using their own data formats.
 2. A PDA interface, also developed with Java EE and deployed to Glassfish server, which was used as a web service to which mobile PDA’s and native mobile applications could connect.
 3. An Android application, developed using the native Android SDK and Google API’s, which is the primary component of MyMobileWorkers. During this project, I developed my Java and Android skills and also gained experience in using Gradle for build and dependency management.
 4. A web portal, developed with PHP, the Kohana framework and Bootstrap. During my time on this project, I also gained experience in using ORM’s and API integration with JasperReports.
 - Additional experience gained during this employment included taking part in build/deploy processes for the four components above, continuous integration with Jenkins, developing an iOS prototype, maintaining the web API wiki and taking part in client-facing interactions such as requirements elicitation, debugging and API assistance.
- Lab Demonstrator (Computer Science), University of Liverpool Oct 2014 - July 2015
 - **Modules taught:** COMP282 (Advanced Object-Oriented C Languages) and COMP102 (Introduction to Databases).
 - This role involved giving practical code demonstrations to students and assisting them with their lab solutions, as well as marking formal code submissions and giving feedback. The lab classes undertaken involved teaching MySQL, Objective-C and C++.

Skills

Technical

- Programming languages
 - Java/Java EE (primary language), SQL/MySQL, Objective-C, PHP, JavaScript, HTML, CSS.
- Technologies
 - Spring, Kohana, Laravel, Android SDK, iOS SDK, Cocoa, JQuery, Bootstrap, JSON, XML, REST, Ant, Gradle, JUnit, Tomcat, Glassfish, Jenkins, Log4j, Trello.

General

- Experienced in working independently and as part of various-sized teams.
- Sound communication and collaboration skills developed during client interactions, including debugging code, answering queries remotely and taking part in requirements elicitation and feedback.
- Experienced in troubleshooting and problem-solving.
- Excellent time-management skills developed during the organisation of my own working hours during PhD study.
- Full UK driving license.