Zou,Xu xu.zou@outlook.com

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### **SUMMARY**

IT professional with broad range of qualifications up to postgraduate level. Experience in public, private and voluntary sectors, including combined eight years of service on several boards.

#### **SKILLS**

**Computer Languages:** Proficient with PHP and SQL. Familiar with C, Java and Perl. **Web Development:** Proficient with HTML and XML. Familiar with CSS and jQuery.

Operating Systems: Proficient with Linux, particularly Debian and Ubuntu.

Application Software: Proficient with Apache, MySQL and Subversion. Familiar with Postfix and Git.

Virtualisation: Familiar with Vagrant, VirtualBox, virt-manager and KVM.

## **EXPERIENCE**

## University of Manchester

Software Support Officer, December 2013 - Present

- ► Maintain and develop internal infrastructure and software as part of a small team.
- ► Provide both regular and short-notice cover for academic staff due to timetable clashes, illness etc.
- ► Provide student-facing support in laboratories and contribute to teaching materials.
- ► Develop testing environments to match production, using Vagrant and VirtualBox.
- ► Built PHP web service to abstract sending email in student exercises, with auditing and rate limiting.
- ► Integrated multiple support systems and authored CPAN modules: OTRS::ForwardQueue and WWW::BrokenLinks.

### **Direct Fleet Insurance Services Ltd**

IT Director, October 2010 - November 2013

- ► Promoted from Technical Manager to IT Director after 18 months with the company.
- ► Formulated and agreed long term strategy as member of the Board, including budgets and financial forecasting.
- ► Researched and implemented pension provision for employees in preparation for autoenrolment.
- ► Reduced server-side IT expenditure by 25% as a result of reviewing platform hosting costs, switching providers and consolidating services.
- ► Held Financial Conduct Authority approved person status for the duration of this role.

## **Direct Fleet Insurance Services Ltd**

Technical Manager, March 2009 - November 2013

- ► Maintained and developed online wholesale insurance trading platform, written in PHP and Perl with MySQL for data storage.
- ► Developed integrated and automated invoicing and credit control system, handling over £30m of annual premiums.
- ► Automated a wide range of repetitive tasks, including production of Excel reports, eliminating re-keying errors and reducing turnaround time.
- ▶ Built two new insurance products from scratch: commercial combined and automated breakdown quotations. Managed the full process from initial meetings with suppliers through to implementation, reviewing contracts and launch within agreed deadlines.

- ► Translated underwriting criteria into an XML web service with a REST API, providing 10,000 quotes per month for a salary sacrifice scheme used by over twenty medium and large UK companies.
- Worked with a wide range of external partners, including major UK insurers, Experian and the Motor Insurers' Bureau.

#### **UKUUG Ltd**

Director, September 2008 - January 2013 Council Member, September 2007 - September 2013

- Organised two annual conferences with other volunteers; lead organiser and conference chair for 2009, 2010 and 2011.
- ► Served as chairman for four years (2008-2012), with responsibility for chairing bi-monthly Council meetings and the AGM.
- ► Liaised with a range of corporate sponsors, including Bytemark, Google and Sun Microsystems (now Oracle).

#### Manchester Environmental Resource Centre Initiative Ltd

Director, December 2008 - December 2010

- Elected as a director & trustee of a local sustainable development charity which runs a number of projects in Manchester.
- ► Focused on improving the finances of the organisation, including working closely with the finance officer and executive director to identify funding and reserve requirements, and potential reductions in expenditure.
- ► Chaired board meetings in rotation with other trustees.

# Self Employment

Freelance Developer, February 2002 - Present

 Development of bespoke websites and customisation of existing software, primarily using PHP and MySQL.

# **Independent Power Engineering Contractors (IPEC) Ltd**

Software Developer, July 2005 - September 2005

- ► Developed customised Linux distribution for monitoring of electrical substations.
- ► Maintained and developed web-based data analysis software using a combination of PHP and Perl, with PostgreSQL for data storage.
- ► Day-to-day maintenance of servers, including Apache (web) and Bind (DNS).

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Newsletter Editor, FLOSS UK, August 2014 - Present.

Lead organiser of a monthly walking group, May 2012 – Present.

Treasurer, Manchester Classical Association, July 2012 – Present.

Webmaster, Manchester Classical Association, November 2007 – Present.

## **EDUCATION**

# University of Manchester

September 2007 - September 2009

► MPhil Computer Science

# **University of Manchester**

September 2006 - August 2007

► MA Ancient World Studies (Classics and Ancient History)

### **University of Manchester**

September 2003 - June 2006

► BSc (Hons) Computer Science (2:1)