Brennan Novak

UX & Engineringing

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Currently, I'm a designer and engineer at Transparency Toolkit and I live in Berlin, Germany! A visual thinker first and foremost, formally trained designer, informally trained software engineer. I have too many ideas.

Location

City   Kreuzberg
Country code DE
Region   Berlin

Profiles

Twitter
brennannovak
Link

GitHub
bnvk
Link

Website
brennannovak.com
Link

Work

Transparency Toolkit

Apr, 2015 - Present
Designer, Engineer
http://transparencytoolkit.org

Upon starting at Transparency Toolkit, I created a brand identity and logo, as well as applied this identity to our primary open source software tool "LookingGlass" which has been used to publish ICWATCH and the full archive of documents released by whistleblower Edward Snowden. I have also done light engineering and data wrangling.

Qubes OS

June, 2016 - Aug, 2015
Designer, Web Developer
https://qubes-os.org

I started using Qubes OS personally in spring 2015, and immediately saw lots of potential to improve both the user experience of the operating system itself as well as the public facing website and documentation that new and existing user interact with.

Mailpile

May, 2013 - Feb, 2015
Design & UX Engineering
https://mailpile.is

At Mailpile I was responsible for all things design related and most of the front-end engineering and user experience. I co-founded the project and was instrumental in creating a successful crowd funding campaign that raised $170k in funding. I also edited promotional videos, co-ordinated software releases, and engaged with news media on behalf of the project.

Little Bird

Sep, 2012 - Apr, 2013
UX Engineer
http://getlittlebird.com

While at Little Bird I have been responsible for interface design, branding, information architecture, user experience, and frontend engineering. I joined the team while they were in the summer 2012 class of PIE (Portland Incubator Experiment) through which I worked closely with Wieden + Kennedy to define the companies branding. Within the company, I strove to simplify use of the Little Bird application by creating a visual language (icons & interface elements), better information architecture, and simplified language and descriptions. I also migrated much of the javascript to Backbone.js and the CSS to LESS partials.

+Citizen

Apr, 2012 - Sep, 2012
Creative Technologist
http://pluscitizen.com

I was initially hired to consult creatively on a mobile apps in the quantified self space due to my work on my project Emoome. I generated numerous product ideas, paper wireframes, and hi resolution user flows + wireframes that were then handed off to a dedc team. Citizen also asked me to work on their newly formed "Innovation Lab" I created concept decks and an idea database web app for the company to archive ideas with a various metrics and rankings to determine which internal projects should be developed.

Reverse Productions

Jan, 2004 - Apr, 2012

Creative & Technical Consultant
http://reverseproductions.com

Reverse Productions Ltd. was the company in which I created and freelanced under for eight years. While freelancing, I did the following roles: web development, software engineering, interface design, user experience, branding, digital strategy, and mobile apps. I also sub-contracted others with speciality skillsets. Clients ranged from entertainment industry celebrities, to small business owners, to corporations like Nike.

Volunteer

5 Gyres

Jun, 2009 - Feb, 2013
Branding & Web Design
http://5gyres.org

I helped non-profit 5 Gyres create an organization dedicated to fighting plastic pollution in the worlds oceans. I was repsonsible for creating initial branding and identity and maintaing the website as well other design related tasks

Education

Sep, 1999 - Jan, 2001
Art Center College of Design
Design & Cinema
BFA

Jan, 2002 - Jan, 2003
Santa Monica College
Writing
BA

Skills

Design & Creative
Expert

- Branding
- Identity
- Logo Design
- Typography
- Interface Design
- Creative Direction

Software Engineering
Expert

- HTML5
- CSS3
- Javascript
- Git
- Node.js
- Python

- User Experience
- Usability
- Information Architecture
- Software Engineering
- Video Editing
- Motion Graphics

- Ruby / Rails
- PHP
- REST APIs
- JSON
- MySQL
- Screen Scraping
- LESS, SASS
- Backbone.js
- WordPress
- OpenPGP / GnuPG
- Email
- Linux

Languages

English
Native speaker

German
Studying

Icelandic
Beginner

Interests

Tech Related

- Privacy Advocate
- Encryption Enthusiast
- Decentralization Schemer
- IndieWeb Builder
- Crypto Party Goer
- Raspberry Pi Tinkerer

Not Tech Related

- Open Source Making
- Passionate Activist
- Environmentalism
- Devout Music Lover
- Passionate Cinema Goer
- Budding Urban Farming