

# James Anthony Baker

<http://www.jamesbaker.me.uk> : www  
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## Profile...

After a number of years working within the Hospitality industry I have now returned to Web Development. I left Hospitality because it lacked the opportunities for me to challenge myself and learn new things in the same way that Web Development provides me.

With over 5 years commercial web development experience, I have an eye for detail, an analytical disposition and a desire for knowledge. I love to learn new things and I'm amazed by the number of different tools available to Developers. I'm familiar with a wide range of tools from task-runners like Grunt, to CSS pre-processors like SASS and LESS through to MVC frameworks like AngularJS and Rails, that all aid in rapid and adaptable development.

I aspire to become a cutting edge programmer and I'm excited about the chance of working with 'The Internet of Things'. I take responsibility for the full life cycle of my code, including concept, launch AND maintenance, while recognising the significance of good error-checking, cross-browser testing and security practices.

I'm in the final stages of a responsive single page website for a taxi firm using Bootstrap 3/jQuery (<http://www.diamondcarsheathfield.com>) and a dynamic and responsive trade website using PHP, MySQL and jQuery (<http://www.tubsofplaster.com>). I've also just started work on my own website using AngularJS, MongoDB and node.js.

After a number of years living abroad I accredit my success to taking pride in my work and by always striving to be the best at what I do. I grasp new concepts quickly with a willingness to learn, be that company training or client requests. Through my varied work experiences I've gained strong interpersonal skills as well as a 'can do' attitude which has translated into positively contributing in team meetings and a productive work flow. I'm also ambitious and competitive which helps me to remain focused and motivated.

I'm ideally looking for contract positions at dynamic companies that embrace new technologies. Being based in Haywards Heath, West Sussex I can easily commute to Brighton, Horsham or Crawley.

## Skills...

- Working knowledge in CSS3, HTML5, JavaScript, jQuery, SASS, PHP5 and MySQL.
- Using the command line for Git, Grunt, Homebrew, NPM, compiling SASS.
- Setting up full development environments ROR, XAMPP and Coldfusion/Access/IIS.
- Understanding of the principles of DRY & KISS, AJAX (including graceful degradation & progressive enhancement), WC3 & Accessibility standards/compliance and best practices.
- Knowledge of OOP/MVC concepts & structures.
- Working in an Agile environment using JIRA Agile and Confluence.
- Secure user login with salted and hashed passwords.
- Prevent SQL Injection attacks with prepared SQL statements and validation/sanitisation functions.
- Testing for and providing cross-browser solutions
- Responsive and Adaptive web design skills.
- RDBMS use and 'minimum privilege' management (PHPMyAdmin)
- Writing custom UI and personalising Bootstrap 3 template.
- Using semantic structure (microdata and RDFa) and metatags to aid SEO and mobile UX.
- Version control using Git Hub through Sourcetree and command line functions.
- Google Analytics, Bing/Google Webmaster Tools (inc Sitemaps, Robots.txt, Ownership, Authorship)
- Legacy knowledge of Coldfusion, classic ASP/vbScript, VB, Access.
- Strong work ethic and attention to detail.
- Working as part of a team using good communication skills and positive creative contributions.
- Working autonomously using self-motivation and a sense of responsibility.
- Meeting deadlines/targets through efficient time management.
- Effectively leading people in high pressure environments.

## Achievements...

- RSA Hack Day 2014 – Winning Team
- RSA Team Player of The Month – December
- Took part in a successful re-brand of a business which contributed to an increase in profits of 40%.
- Introduced a number of systems and procedures that helped staff maintain a good work life balance.
- Travelling the world self-financed through adaptability and hard work, and successfully returning to web development.

# Employment History...

## **Front End Developer** Aug 2014 – Current (At Risk of Redundancy) @ RSA Digital – Horsham, UK

I was taken on-board as part of a new global development team, with the aim of centralising web development for RSA's global partners. My first project was to take a legacy system written in ASP.NET and provide a responsive re-skin with client-side validation. For this project we used Grunt to produce flat HTML files for later integration by a third party, to compile SASS, as a local server and to upload to our Amazon S3 test server. jQuery and Validate.js were used for form validation. We used Virtual Box, Genymotion and Xcode for our cross-browser/device testing which also included Accessibility ratings and HTML/CSS code validation before handing pages over to the QA testers. This project was conducted in an Agile fashion using JIRA and Confluence to keep track of tasks, defects and documentation. We conducted daily stand-ups to discuss tasks from the previous day, our tasks today and any blockers that prohibit our work flow. We would also conduct showcases to project sponsors, technical sessions with the integration company and retrospectives to discuss more efficient work methods. I became project lead after the project had started to take some pressure off of the Lead Developer. I was given MVT training in injecting live pages with JavaScript to manipulate current UI to find the most beneficial options for partners and users. I also won 2 awards in my short time at RSA. The first award was for being part of the winning team at the "Hack Day" event, which happened after I was there only a few weeks, where we created a fully functioning proof of concept using social media login details to aid the customer renewals process and increase conversions. The second was for Team Player of the Month, in December, which I was awarded for outstanding work and continuing professionalism during a difficult period in the team.

*Skills learnt: Agile web development, working on projects with multiple developers and project sponsors, MVT, Grunt, Git.*

## **Supervisor promoted to Restaurant Manager** 2012 – May 2014 @ The Groove Train – Surfers Paradise, Australia

I worked at this busy 300 seater restaurant for 2 years, where I was in charge of a team 40 staff.

*Skills learnt: Leadership skills, staff training, conducting interviews, effective time/people management to meet targets and deadlines, dealing with stress.*

## **Cocktail Bartender promoted to Bar Manager** Nov 2010 – Oct 2011 @ TYC Bar/Gasoline Alley – Queenstown, NZ

I took a major role in a re-branding of the bar as it had struggled to appeal to a younger demographic in the previous winter seasons and subsequently profits for the winter period were up by over 40%.

*Skills learnt: Brand redesign, maintaining an exceptional level of customer service and professionalism, discovering customers preferences, keeping up to date with the latest trends.*

## **Head waiter promoted to Assistant Manager** Summer 2008-2010 @ Robinson Crusoe's Bar & Restaurant – Mallorca, Spain

*Skills learnt: Delegating tasks effectively, using my initiative, diplomatically dealing with customers/staff mistakes/issues.*

## **Bartender promoted to Head Waiter** Summer 2007 @ Foxy's Beach Bar & Restaurant – Mallorca, Spain

*Skills learnt: Motivating staff, maintaining professional standards and brand image.*

## **Bartender & Waiter** Summer 2006 @ King's Arms Pub & Restaurant – Crete, Greece

*Skills learnt: Interpersonal skills, dealing with the general public, handling difficult customers.*

## **Ski Technician & Storage Monitor** Winter 2005-2009 @ Edinger Sport & Mode – Söll, Austria

*Skills learnt: Sales, answering technical queries in simplified terms and general customer service.*

## **Bar & Restaurant Promoter** Summer 2005 @ King's Arms Pub & Restaurant – Crete, Greece

*Skills learnt: Maintaining customer relationships, realising customers expectations, enlarging the customer base.*

## **Freelance Web Developer/Webmaster** Mar 2004 – May 2005 Self employed – Sussex, UK

Working from home I maintained previous client's eCommerce websites. Keeping the stock, graphics, adverts and menu options up to date.

*Skills learnt: Effective time management, self-motivation.*

## **Senior Developer** Feb 2004 – Jul 2004 @ Spotty Cow Branding Ltd – Sussex, UK (Contractor)

Here I was contracted to work on a VB based automated stock trading system which involved parsing a financial advice page, collected in HTML, for information. Manipulation of a live Reuters XML stock feed. Writing complex algorithms using data collected and automatically trading results through an online stock broker. I was client liaison for the project.

## **Junior Developer promoted to Web Developer** Sep 2000 – Jan 2004 @ Anagram Internet Services – Sussex, UK

In my three and a half years at Anagram I was given the opportunity to learn many aspects of bespoke website design. I was tutored by specialists in database manipulation (Access), Photoshop, ASP, Coldfusion, JavaScript and Visual Basic. I learnt about site design, indexing, optimising graphics for the web, optimising UI with minimal clicks, visually clean navigation, sever side scripts, CSS, creating sites from digital mock-ups, landing pages, information architecture, debugging, error checking, icon/logo design, offering multiple browser solutions and monitoring load times. Other tasks were FTP uploading and the maintenance/adjustment of existing sites. After a year of small roles in different projects I was promoted to Web Developer. My projects were bespoke, database-driven e-commerce solutions with online shops, animated graphics, music, stock control systems, custom built back-end CMS, membership registration and email facilities.

## Interests...

I love new technologies and staying up to date with any advances in science, nature and medicine. I have a passion for snowboarding and fishing. I enjoy going to the gym and playing football. I like to listen to music and attend music festivals when I have the time. I also enjoy playing poker with friends and to meet new people through work and leisure.

## Education...

1989 – 1995	Wilmington Primary School	Full UK Driving Licence (and transportation)
1995 – April 1997	Dartford Grammar School	Registered Manager of a Licensed Venue – Australia
April 1997 – 2000	Heathfield Community College	Responsible Service of Alcohol – Australia
<u>GCSE</u>		Food and Drink Handling Certificate – Australia
<b>English, Maths, Sciences</b>	<b>4 A-C</b>	Liquor Control Qualification – New Zealand
Art, R.E, French, Business	4 D-E	Spanish: Basic

## References...

(Full contact details available on request)

Graham Holden	Development Lead, RSA Digital (UK)
Sam Campagna	Owner, The Groove Train Surfers Paradise (Australia) - surfersparadise@groovetrain.com.au
Craig Smith	Director, Gasoline Alley (NZ)
Robin Douglas	Manager, Robinson Crusoe's (Spain)
Alex Edinger	Owner, Edinger Sport & Mode (Austria) - alex@sport-edinger.at
Simon Mander	Line Manager, Anagram Internet Services (UK)