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Simon Nicholls
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Simon is currently finalizing an MSC in Information Technology at UWE. He is in a position to launch an exciting career in Information Technology, with a focus on web development, and an ambition to progress to a Project Management role later on in his career. Feeling inspired by various programming related conferences he's attended; and appreciates the community that surrounds, Simon is hoping to take his academic skills further and use them in a industrial setting.

Educational Background

2011-Present

MSC IT*University of The West Of
England (UWE)*

Currently completing MSC in Information Technology (Dissertation Pending). This covered many aspects of IT;

- Software Development. Worked on a large group project which involved developing a web-based booking and calendar system. This was developed using PHP, MySQL and HTML/CSS. Gained Exposure to PHP and developed the applications the core logic. Giving considerations towards security vulnerabilities, such as SQL injection, and taking the necessary precautions.
- User Experience (UX). This entailed analysing user journeys whilst taking into account the application's demographic. We then designed a User Experience tailored to a user's traits.
- Systems Development. Developed a suite of Entity Relationships (ER), State Transition and Class Diagrams for an order management system. Considerations were given for the user's characteristics and UX.
- Software Engineering. Analysed various development methodologies, specifically looking at Agile and the associated styles; such as XP, SCRUM, Diamond and Crystal. Applied various techniques related to Agile during the Software Development project, and was able to get the team to adopt Pair Programming and SCRUM meetings (stand up meetings).
- Java Application. Developed a Object Orientated Java Application that simulated a loyalty card system for a retail store. Utilised UML diagrams as part of the design process, including Class Diagrams.
- IT Infrastructure. An intense look at low-level computer hardware and networks and the interaction with the Operating System. Researched CPU Architecture and the low-level algorithms, coupled with the various protocols and networking stacks that allow applications to communicate in a networked environment.

2007-2010

BA Business Studies*Portsmouth University*

Graduated with a 2:2 in BA Business. Much of this degree promoted constant team work, presentational events and self management. Through the three years of study it covered many elements;

- Marketing. Involved; Marketing Relationship, Marketing & Databases, Direct Marketing, Marketing Strategy, Marketing Research and other areas, but; focused heavily at the customer to business relationship and how effective management can reap massive rewards.
- Key Accounts Management. This focused on dealing with Client's on a one to one basis, and the consultation process which ultimately leads to a products requirements being agreed upon.
- Strategy. A large portion of this degree focused on a number of different Strategy types that can be employed, through older styles such as Boston style through to more modern styles which focus more heavily on Market Research.

Along with the above areas the degree also covered; Ethics, Innovation Management, Finances, Stock Market Management, Production/Process Management, Economics, Statistics, Human Resources, Future Management, Cultural differences,

Pre 2007
*Bristol College Green
Beacon Hill (Blackpool)*

Completed a BTEC National Diploma in Business Studies (DMM). Graduated High School with 10+ GCSEs. Furthermore, Simon was involved in Young Enterprise, in which he adopted the IT manager role which comprised of developing a Website for the group, creating a Corporate Logo and being part of the team that presented at the end of year Young Enterprise annual meeting; which rewarded himself and the Group with '*Best under 16's YE group*'.

Work Experience

2007-Present
Greene King PLC

Currently working part-time at very popular local Greene King Inn. Great team spirit and enjoyable workplace, and worked directly with customers constantly achieving high-levels of sales and customer services. Responsibilities include cellar duty, order management, serving customers at bar, and taking food orders.

Technical Experience

Programming Languages:

- Good Understanding of HTML & CSS
- Basic Knowledge of PHP5 and MySQL database interaction.
- An academic experience with Java.
- Experience in using tools such as Notepad ++, GitHub, Netbeans, Photoshop and GIMP photo editing tools

Operating Systems:

Proficient Windows User XP - 7
Familiar with Ubuntu 10.10 - Current (12.10)