Mark Nixon

Software Tester

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Personal Profile

My name is Mark Nixon, I am a Software tester with a BCS Level 4 Software Testing qualification, passionate about advancing my skills in diverse testing scenarios. Eager to deepen my understanding of software development practices, broaden my proficiency in programming languages, and contribute effectively to high-quality software solutions.

Personal Skills

- I have good written and verbal communication skills.
- I have strong work ethic.
- I enjoy working as a team whilst also being comfortable in taking the lead.
- I have effective time management skills.
- Strong learning ability, quickly picking up new ways of working, ideas, subjects, and technologies.
- Great Understanding of HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Python, SQL, React, Typescript and Java
- Great Understanding tools like GitHub, Jira

Experience

Software Testing Apprenticeship – Stalis

Sept 2022 – Jan 2024

- Gained hands-on experience in functional and non-functional testing, the software testing lifecycle, Agile methodologies, test automation, and accessibility testing.

- Played a key role in a data archiving project for NHS Trusts, independently creating test plans, developing and executing test suites, and managing the end-to-end test process.

- Worked on verifying NHS database integrity, which enhanced my SQL skills and deepened my understanding of relational databases and data validation.

Software Tester – Stalis

Jan 2024 – Present

- Expanded my manual and automation testing expertise, particularly around regression testing, exploratory testing, and defect management.

- Continued to develop SQL proficiency for backend testing and data analysis.

- Recently began contributing to front-end development on a React-based project, applying self-taught React knowledge in a professional setting.

- Gained practical experience working with Microsoft SQL Server and understanding how front-end and back-end systems interact within healthcare software solutions.

Independent Learning & Projects

- Web Development: Self-taught in HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React, and TypeScript, with experience building and deploying multiple full-stack web projects.

  - Developed two versions of a WWE-themed website, gaining practical experience with Firebase for authentication and real-time database management.

  - Built a Running Tracker app that uses third-party APIs to monitor distance, pace, and route data. The app includes user login, historical run tracking, and responsive design. This project helped reinforce my understanding of API integration, state management in React, and UI design best practices.

- Java Projects: Developed multiple Java-based applications, including a 2D game focused on object-oriented programming principles and basic performance optimization.

- Cybersecurity: Studied cybersecurity fundamentals and penetration testing techniques.

  - Completed hands-on labs using TryHackMe, focusing on topics such as ethical hacking, network vulnerabilities, and secure coding practices.

  - Built on core security principles introduced during my apprenticeship to further understand system vulnerabilities and hardening techniques.

Education

Cheadle Hulme High School – 6th form College
September 2020 – June 2022

Subject	Exam	Date of Exam	Achieved Grade
Biology	A Level	August 2022	C
Chemistry	A Level	August 2022	C
Computer Science	A Level	August 2022	B
Core Maths	Level 3 Qualification	May 2021	A
EPQ	Level 3 Qualification	August 2022	B

Software Testing Apprenticeship
September 2022 – January 2024

Qualification	Date of Exam	Achieved Grade
BCS L4 Software Tester Qualification	December 2023 – January 2024	Merit

Hobbies

- I am interested in running right now so I go on regular runs, and I am trying to build my way up to doing a Half Marathon in October
- I like playing games a lot for fun and because of this I've had a go and learnt about creating some of my own games and how that process works.
- I love going swimming and have also worked towards getting my PADI licence with my dad so I can go diving