Nathan Dennis

Cheshire

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After working in a wide range of roles, from baking, call center management, gym instructing, 999 call handling to customer service, I'm taking the steps to move into a career that I'm truly passionate about.

A couple of years ago, I took the decision to start with a Udemy web development bootcamp course that taught the fundamentals of HTML, CSS and Javascript, along with practical applications of technologies like REST APIs, MongoDB, ExpressJS and NodeJS.

This year I've also introduced myself to some great front-end tools, such as VueJS and Svelte. I've completed courses on Udemy that focus on JavaScript, MySQL exclusively, as well as a couple of full stack development bootcamps by Colt Steele and Angela Yu.

Since then, with the encouragement from some friends who are senior engineers in esteemed companies like Microsoft and DigitalOcean, I've developed a keen interest in full stack development, and am now learning about the things that truly blow my mind, like Golang, Docker, Kubernetes, Linux, Redis and distributed systems.

PROJECTS

Chess on Stream - Co-founder
Feb 2021 - current

https://choss.gg

- Created and maintain a widely anticipated web application/game, written with Vue.js (Vue 3), tmi.js, chessboard.js, and chess.js
- Authenticated users using OAuth protocols and securely stored user
- access tokens and automatically refreshed and served new tokens
- Planned, wrote and debugged web application and software architecture with high accuracy
- Designed and implemented modern web aesthetics with attention to detail
- Implemented MongoDB to store user sessions and game states

DigitalOcean Mobile
Personal | April 2020

https://github.com/NathanDennis/Digital-Ocean-Mobile

- Built a prototype mobile companion application for use with DigitalOcean
- Designed and built a functioning user interface with Ionic Framework and Vue.js
- Liaised with DigitalOcean engineers to fix broken endpoints on their production API so that the app could function on a mobile device when built with Android Studio
- Created robust API calls with Axios to receive and parse data to pass to the front end
- Handled error checking and debugging efficiently with conditional logic and promises

Coronavirus Updates
Personal | March 2020

https://coronavirusupdates.netlify.app

- Created a web application to display relevant articles from trusted news sources relating to the COVID-19 outbreak
- Learned Vue.js to get this project into an MVP state within 10 hours of inception
- Created a NodeJS server to make calls to NewsAPI for data, then parse and pass the data to the front end so that relevant information could populate each Vue card component

This project taught me a lot about interacting with public APIs and formatting the returned data into usable pieces in VueJS components, as well as some problem solving with event emitters and conditional logic in VueJS.

Source code:

- App: https://github.com/NathanDennis/coronavirus-news-articles
- Server: https://github.com/NathanDennis/coronavirus-news-server

SKILLS

Technical

NodeJS/Express

Javascript/VueJS

REST APIs

SQL

MongoDB

HTML/CSS

Git

Linux

Personal

Time management

Teamwork

Problem solving

Technically driven with a positive attitude

LEARNING

Golang

Docker

GraphQL

Kubernetes

Redis

NGINX

Svelte

Distributed Systems

Cluster Sim

https://github.com/NathanDennis/cluster-sim

- Built a small NGINX load balancer on a small cluster of Raspberry Pis
- Wrote a simple Golang server with a single endpoint to balance and route incoming traffic across the cluster
- Used an HTTP benchmarking tool called 'wrk' via Docker to generate tens of thousands of requests to the server endpoint to have NGINX split the traffic evenly, before logging the IP of each dummy request to the console

This simple experiment is what really got me interested in the barebones, under the hood inner workings of back end development, and sparked a real curiosity to learn about Docker, Linux, Kubernetes and Golang.

Discord Reminder Bot

Personal | May 2020

https://github.com/NathanDennis/discord-reminder-bot

- Built a NodeJS bot using Discord.js to allow users to query the bot and set reminders for themselves to action in the future
- Stored user reminders (timestamps, text strings, requested reminder date/time) using SQL with SQLite
- Bot server would check the database for reminders due to be sent every few minutes, issue a direct message to the user with their requested reminder, then destroy the database entry once complete to save on resources

This bot really challenged my basic knowledge on SQL, formatting and storing data, as well as retrieving data to pass into an application, before formatting and sending a customized message to the user.

WORK EXPERIENCE

In 2009, I started working as a cleaner at a gym. While not the most glamorous of jobs, I worked hard and ended up volunteering as a gym instructor to gain experience and pursue an interest in personal training.

From there I spent 9 months training and successfully making it through the selection process for the British Army Infantry. Unfortunately a heavy knee injury shortly before making my way to the Catterick camp cut this dream short and I was sent home the next day.

In 2011, 10 miserable weeks on unemployment benefits later, I found myself in a job making a range of breads from scratch in one of Tesco's new scratch bakeries. This is where my love for seeing the end result of my work come to fruition really started.

My next job in 2013, was working in a government call center, where I took calls on behalf of HM Prison Service, Crown Prosecution Service, The Royal Parks and Natural England. Here I was also a 999 emergency operator for National Rail Service, where all 999 calls from the railways across England, Wales and Scotland were routed. I was quickly promoted into a team lead position, which turned into an out of hours management role, where I looked after the agents, and took on the responsibilities of disaster management and taking call escalations.

Since then I've worked as a debt recovery negotiator for a car credit hire company from 2014 - 2015, settling claims with car insurance providers and preparing lengthy cases for litigation, I've been a team lead at AO managing a call center full of agents in 2016, a customer service representative for OverclockersUK from 2016-2018 and an insurance broker for a car & business insurance company in 2019.

I'm currently unemployed and actively looking for work, after my temporary 6 month contract at OverclockersUK was cut short due to an unfortunate downturn in business in the winter of 2020.

INTERESTS

Travel

Building mechanical keyboards

Cooking

Guitar and vocal covers

WeRateDogs

VOLUNTEERING

Gym instructor / class leader
2009-2011

While working as a cleaner, I volunteered my time as a gym instructor and lead cardio classes for large groups of members, as the gym was severely understaffed at the time

EDUCATION

Ruskin Sports College
2002-2007

7x GCSEs grades A-C