Sam Blackburn

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https://github.com/PopThieves

Coming from a background in the biological sciences, after completing my degree in Ecology my career path would take an unexpected turn. My desire to begin studying coding and software development stems from a book I received as a gift, Code by Charles Petzold. Given a clear insight into the hidden language of software, I began independently studying JavaScript and HTML. A friend who noticed my piqued interest recommended Northcoders, a coding bootcamp based in Manchester. Their values of determination and commitment resonated with me so I applied immediately.

Technical Skills

• **Languages:** JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Python (Currently studying)

• **Back-end:** PSQL, GraphQL, MongoDB, Express, Apollo, Node JS, Firestore

• **Front-end:** React, React Native, Vue.js (Currently studying)

Experience

After graduating from Aberystwyth University, I spent just over a year in customer service at Booths, specialising on the meat and fish counters. Working as a team vastly improved my communication skills and customer interactions.

The Northcoders course was split into four core sections. The Fundamentals during the first three weeks focused on truly understanding the basics and the advanced concepts of JavaScript and NodeJS. Closure, recursion, asynchronosity, and the importance of test-driven development.

The Back-end section taught us how set up servers using both HTTPS in Node and ExpressJS, and the MVC framework that they require. We also used SQL to understand how to create and interact with a relational database. We used Knex in conjunction with SQL to seed our data and build queries.

The Front-end sections cemented our knowledge of HTML and CSS, and introduced us to the React framework. We gained an understanding of the React lifecycle and using reach router for client-side routing.

During our final projects phase, we split into groups and applied the knowledge we had gained over the course to produce an application of our design. Using agile project management, our group branched out and used new technologies, React Native and MongoDB as we felt that this was more reflective of employment, having to adapt to different languages, frameworks, and libraries.

Projects

• **Personal Portfolio –** Simple HTML and CSS designed website with a theme selector that is stored in local storage.

• **Front-end / Back-end Project Example** - Twitter Clone using a React framework and a Firebase Cloud Firestore. - twitter-clone-840aa.web.app / github.com/PopThieves/twitter_clone

• **Front-end / Back-end Project Example –** A simple messaging application with multiple rooms using Socket.io, Node.JS, HTML, and CSS. Hosted on Heroku. - https://hots-chat.herokuapp.com/index.html / https://github.com/PopThieves/HOTS-Chat

• **Final Project Example** – Mates Rates, an app to share and review your favourite restaurants and bars with friends. Built using React Native / Expo front-end, with a MongoDB / GraphQL backend.

Front-end: https://github.com/PopThieves/MatesRates / https://expo.io/@rico157/projects/MatesRates

Back-end: https://github.com/PopThieves/BE-Mates-Rates / https://matesrates.herokuapp.com/graphql

Education

• Aberystwyth University: 2016 – 2018

Bachelor of Science Ecology Degree

Freshwater Biology, Research Methods, Countryside Management, Dissertation.

• Sir John Deane's College: 2014 – 2016

Environmental Science – B

Mathematics – B

Biology – C

• Lymm High School: 2008 – 2014

Mathematics – A*

Biology – A

Chemistry – A

Physics – A

Geography – A

DevFest UK and Ireland 2020

Attended a community organised virtual conference with events covering Cloud, Mobile, Machine Learning, and Emerging technologies.

Knutsford Archery Club 2014 – 2019

Involvement in local community sports club, attended several county team competitions, still practice archery in my spare time. Enjoy the repetitive nature of the sport, aiming for consistency in technique.

References available upon request.