Robert Waller

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GitHub: https://github.com/RobDWaller

Skills and Knowledge

PHP, Python, JavaScript, Ubuntu, Centos, Docker, MySQL, Mongo, Laravel, Slim, WordPress, Flask, Django, Jekyll, AWS, DigitalOcean, Tableau, Git, GitHub, GitLab

Security Cleared 2015

Personal Statement

I am a senior software developer and manager with nearly a decade and a half of experience. I have strong skills in PHP, JavaScript and Python along with a lot of dev-ops experience including Docker. In addition, I have worked with database technologies including MySQL, Mongo, Redis, Elastic and SQL Server. I am also a proponent of Test Driven Development, SOLID principles and maintain a number of Open Source projects.

I have recently moved back into contracting but previously was the Head of Technology at Breakthrough Media where I ran a team of software developers, project managers and QAs. The work focused on web technologies such as WordPress, Laravel, Vue.js, and Jekyll, along with data insights work based on Tableau, Python and JavaScript.

Before Breakthrough Media I worked as a freelance software developer for a number of agencies. This includes BBH, Wolff Olins, WTG and WebCredible. The work ranged from private to public sector and had a focus on areas such as digital marketing and web development. Along with this I ran my own business which found success in 2012 / 13 when I released a social media analytics app that has been used by over one million people.

I have strong communication skills, have presented talks regularly in both business and public settings. And while at WebCredible I spent four years running their HTML and CSS training courses.

Previous Roles

IFPI, Technical Consultant (Contract)
August 2018 - October 2018
IFPI are a music industry trade body and I joined them to provide technical consultancy and mentorship on their anti-piracy systems. Their system was built on AWS and ran numerous technologies including Java, Python, Node, Oracle and Mongo. I helped them begin to use GitLab and implement continuous

integration tools, improve their standards and begin testing their systems more thoroughly. The work was complete when I delivered documentation and a presentation on how they could modernise their legacy systems and the costs involved.

Breakthrough Media, Head of Technology

May 2016 – July 2018

Breakthrough were a communications agency where I was Head of Technology and ran the software development team which was made up of front-end and back-end developers, dev-ops, QA and project management. The team ranged in size from 8-16 during the period I was there. The majority of the work was based around the 40 WordPress websites we managed on behalf of their government and public sector clients. We took a modern approach to building WordPress websites including the use of Composer and Vue.js. We also ran and maintained a number of Laravel based websites for system monitoring and internal administration, and we built a number of Jekyl based websites. My role was both hands on and managerial and it included a lot of strategy and consultation work. I helped design a number of systems including data warehouses for Breakthrough's government clients. In addition to this we managed and built data insights tools using Python, JavaScript and Tableau. All Breakthrough's systems we hosted and maintained on AWS.

WTG (Civica Group) PHP Senior Developer (Contract)

October 2014 – March 2016

Web Technology Group, now part of Civica, were a development house who worked on UK Government projects. During my time at WTG I worked on a number of PHP based projects including two Laravel sites, a legacy rebuild and a greenfield project. I worked as both a senior developer and a lead developer, we worked in an agile environment with two week sprints and followed Test Driven Development principles. I also did a lot of dev-ops work helping setup and maintain local development and test environments for the teams I worked in.

Status People Ltd, Founder and Lead Developer

August 2011 – August 2018

StatusPeople was a Social Media Analytics company I founded in 2011. The company was closed in 2018 because I no longer felt I could offer a professional service to our paying clients. StatusPeople developed a number systems, all built around PHP, JavaScript and MySQL. The Fakers App was launched in 2012 and did Twitter follow analysis, highlighting how many fake followers an account had. It was very popular, was mentioned in Mashable and on CNN, has had over 1 million users and was still generating incoming when StatusPeople was shut down in 2018. The Fakers App is now run as a free to use Open Source project and is hosted and maintained on Digital Ocean. The Social Analytics platform allowed marketers to interact with their social media channels and track user interaction. This website was sold to another company in late 2013. My time running my business and supporting my own systems taught me a great deal about coding, dev-ops and database management as I had to build and maintain everything myself. Along with the business of technology and the contract law which sits around it.

Harkable, PHP/jQuery/Less/HTML 5 Senior Developer (Contract)

September 2014

Wolff Olins, PHP/jQuery/Less Lead Developer (Contract)

May 2014 – August 2014

Haygarth, PHP/jQuery Senior Developer (Contract)

Feb 2014 – April 2014

Webcredible, PHP Developer and CSS Trainer
June 2012 – September 2015

June 2006 - February 2013:

Nutcase Ltd, PHP/jQuery Lead Developer; Bartle Bogle Hegarty, PHP Lead Developer (Contract); dbg, Support Analyst Programmer; MailPerformance, Email Production Consultant; Complinet, Digital Editor and Assistant Coder.

Work Examples

Fakers App: is a Twitter analytics tool which assesses how many fake followers a Twitter account has. It was first deployed in mid-2012 and is built using PHP, MySQL and JavaScript. The app has been used by well over 1 million people and blocks hundreds of thousands of fake Twitter accounts on a monthly basis.
https://fakers.statuspeople.com
https://sttsp.pl

Really Simple JWT: is an Open Source PHP library which generates simple JSON Web Tokens which can be used for basic authentication processes. The library is fully tested using PHP Unit and achieves 100% code coverage. A TravisCI pipeline runs the code against PHP Stan and PHP MD static analysis tools along with the StyleCI linting tool. It is currently on version 1.0.6, it has been downloaded over 4,500 times.
https://github.com/RobDWaller/ReallySimpleJWT

Fableau: is a Tableau Web Data Connector for Facebook built in JavaScript. It authenticates with Facebook and allows users to pull their Facebook page metric data into Tableau. The tool is currently in Beta, it has a few Jest unit tests and a TravisCI pipeline runs it against ESLint.
https://fableau.io
https://github.com/RobDWaller/fableau

HTML Parse: is a Python library built to help with web crawling. It is currently pre-release but the aim is to parse HTML documents into JSON so they can be stored more easily and the text, link and image data can be accessed and searched more easily. The library has a TravisCI pipeline which runs Python Unittest, PyLint and MyPy against it.
https://github.com/RobDWaller/html_parse

Blogs and Speaking: I enjoy contributing to the Open Source development community by writing about software development and speaking at events. I contribute to the Dev.to community and I have spoken at PHP London, PHP Dorset and PHP Hants.
Blog Examples:
https://dev.to/robdwaller/four-security-principles-that-software-developers-should-follow-24gi
https://dev.to/robdwaller/why-tech-projects-fail-management-planning-process-hmg

Education

Lancaster University 2002-2005, BA 2:1 History

References

Adam Lewis, manager while at WTG

Hobbies & Other Information

I enjoy sport, watch a lot of football and go to the gym. I have a passion for history and philosophy so read regularly. I contribute to open source software and write blogs for dev.to. I also like whisky, TV, film and gaming.