Charlie Owen

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Profile

Based in Berlin, I'm a front-end web developer, skilled in architecting and documenting beautifully-written Sass, creating and maintaining modern front-end tooling chains, and optimising page performance and speed for the variety of modern online devices. You'll regularly find me attending - and speaking at - web talks and conferences, locally and internationally.

Technical skills

I am skilled with:

Sass CSS preprocessing; Atomic design systems; Responsive web design; Gulp/Grunt/npm/Webpack tooling chains; Site performance optimisation; Semantic HTML; Accessibility (visual, hearing, motor and cognitive); Ruby on Rails; Haml; npm; node.js; Javascript enhancement (vanilla, React, Angular, jQuery); Drupal theming layer (D7 + D8); Drupal site building; Git;

I am familiar with:

OO PHP (Zend); Node; Ruby (Sinatra, Jekyll); D3.js;

Design and planning skills

I'm experienced in working closely with UX and design teams to create sites and Design Systems that blend user, design and developer needs. I have much experience with agile planning, working in team sprints, planning upcoming sprints effectively, dealing with retrospectives, and working with issue tracking systems.

Volunteer work and speaking

I have spoken at a number of large events in London, such as Front End London and Sass LDN, giving talks like Visual Regression Testing and Migrating Your Team to Sass. I regularly coach with CSSclasses, a voluntary organisation for the teaching of CSS and HTML to digital newcomers.

Experience

Front-end Developer

Bitcrowd GmbH, Berlin - 2015 - 2016

bitcrowd.net

In summer 2015 I accepted a position with a Berlin-based software agency, bitcrowd GmbH, as a front-end developer. Amongst many projects there I was responsible for the rebuilding from scratch the independent reporting platform Krautreporter using modern techniques, working closely with designers and product owners to do so. I built the new Moviepilot project creators.co, liaising with their design team to produce a site that was accessible, fast and scalable. During my time at Bitcrowd I learned to use Ruby on Rails to its full effect, combining my excellent design and frontend skills with RoR backend techniques. I also wrote a complete company CSS framework that is in use on many client projects.

Senior Developer

BBC News (Politics), London - 2014 - 2015

bbc.co.uk/news

I was recruited by the BBC to build the BBC's presence for the 2015 UK General Election. I worked with business owners, design teams, UX and other developers to bring their various needs and skills together onto the page. As part of this I worked with multiple levels of the stack: creating reusable OO PHP-based page components; creating Ruby-based data renders, transforming raw JSON election data into HTML; working with UX teams to determine user journeys, needs and personas; teaming with TV graphics producers to realise their animations as D3-based visual data representations; and writing Sass and JS to render everything on the page as beautifully and accessibly as possible. Within my first two days I had won the Most Surprisingly Good Hack at the BBC News internal hackathon (for an implementation of the SpeechSynthesis API on BBC News articles).

Contracting Front-End Lead

Association of Accounting Technicians, London – 2012 - 2014

www.aat.org.uk

In 2012 I built the front-end of the new AAT Drupal site from scratch, utilising Panels, Views and custom CSS. During the following year it grew to become one of the premier examples of Large Scale Drupal in the world. I continued with the design of form systems, integrated advertising engines, worked with content teams to design new content types and storyboarded/designed/built new web applications. In 2013 I initiated a massive project to rebuild the site using modern techniques, making the site responsive, reducing page weight and speeding up page load times massively. During this rebuild I introduced modern tooling chains (Grunt, Sass) and pioneered use of Visual Regression Testing, a new system for testing design changes in large teams.

Contracting Front-End Lead

Sky Broadcasting: History Channel, via Modernfidelity Ltd – 2013

www.history.co.uk

Led the front-end rebuild of the History Channel site in using mobile-first responsive techniques. Site design is now rolling out for all History Channel international variants.

Contracting Front-End Lead

Sky Broadcasting: Crime Channel, via Modernfidelity Ltd – 2013

www.crimeandinvestigation.co.uk

Led the front-end rebuild of the Crime Channel site. Rebased it upon responsive techniques and introduced modern tooling. Design is now rolling out across international variants.

Technical Administrator

Velocit Projects Ltd – 2010 - 2011

Liaised with project teams, maintained servers and web applications, documented systems.

VLE Administrator

Newcastle-under-Lyme College, Staffordshire – 2005 - 2010

Maintained the Virtual Learning Environment of NuLC (Moodle). Liaised with lecturers to create and maintain courses. Taught classes of students and lecturers on how to use the VLE. Gave training to lecturers on how to effectively use electronic resources in the classroom. Attended conferences and gave talks on VLE usage.

Education

University

Staffordshire University – Applied Information Technology BSc (first class honours), 2011

References

Ian Matthews - Web Development Manager, Association of Accounting Technicians

Mark Rushton - Director, Modernfidelity Ltd

Crystal Hirschorn - Technical lead, BBC News

Christoph Beck - CEO, Bitcrowd GmbH