

# Sven Struan Finlay

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## Education

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### University of St Andrews

*BSc (Hons) in Computer Science*

Currently in 2<sup>nd</sup> year, graduating in 2019

September 2015 - Present

St Andrews, Scotland

### South African College High School (SACS)

*A levels equivalent*

January 2010 – December 2014

Cape Town, South Africa

- **Graduated Cum Laude First Class**
- Best Subjects: Mathematics, Physics, Computer Science, Music
- Awarded full school colours for Academics and Music
- On school honours board for exceptional academic performance.
- Science Society Committee Member
- Voluntary Mentorship Program - Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science tutor

## Recent Awards

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### 1<sup>st</sup> Place StacsHack (hackathon)

Awarded for our project, Star Wars Dungeon.

March 2017

### Amazon Development Center Scotland Competition Winner

Awarded for creating a social Skill for Amazon Alexa assistant.

March 2017

## Skills

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### Programming and Scripting Languages

- Proficient: Java;
- Medium: C, Haskell;
- Basic: JavaScript, Python, HTML, CSS3, Assembly,

### Operating Systems

- Windows,
- Linux (Fedora)

### Tools

- Latex
- JQuery & AngularJS (Basic)
- Mocha & Chai (Basic)
- Git
- Mercurial

### Database Tools

- Solr(Basic)
- CouchDB (Basic)
- MySQL (Basic)
- XML & JSON (Medium)

# Projects

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## Independent Projects and Competitions

### SaintsBoard

Hack the Bubble 2016

- A Reddit clone built during a 12-hour hackathon to be implemented into the university student portal.
- Implemented using Solr and JavaScript.
- Can be found on my github page: <https://github.com/SvenStruanFinlay/SaintsBoard>

### Star Wars Dungeon: Mentioned above for which Awards were given.

StacsHack 2017

- My team won the annual St Andrews Computing society's hackathon. We build a game in java that was represented in 2.5D and was a combination of Star Wars and DnD (Dungeons and dragons). This is a multiplayer game and the game master can control the game with voice control over Amazon Alexa. I personally contributed substantially to this project.
- Implemented using TCP, Java, HTTP
- Can be found on my github page: <https://github.com/SvenStruanFinlay/InternalServerError>

I have also competed in several weekend inter-university computer Olympiads.

**Degree related Projects:** While at St Andrews I will have completed over 25 CS projects, both team and individual. These include a Loco -> postscript compiler, an implementation of backgammon with GUI and an AI, and an implementation of Hunt-the-Wumpus.

**I have achieved First's for most projects and for my most recent two I achieved 100%.** The latter project written in python redefined the basics of math's to be modules and built a GUI component to the project.

## Personal Strengths and Character Reference

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- My CS strengths include coming up with solutions and conceptualising projects, and adopting simple algorithms to solve complex problems. I am also good at following logic in code and at finding bugs. My creativity and ability to think out of the box enables me find a way through when others might get stuck. And I am a fast learner, for example in learning new languages.
- My South African A Levels equivalent mathematics teacher says in an available reference:  
  
"Sven is an intelligent and absolutely dedicated and conscientious young man and has consistently achieved outstanding academic results particularly in mathematics, computer science, physics, and in music. He has an enquiring mind and a positive and enthusiastic attitude. He is of excellent character and is a well-liked and friendly young man".

This reference and others references which say similar things including that I learn quickly, am diligent, and work well in a team, are available on request.

## Work Experience

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In my South African school years' technology related holiday jobs were limited, but I did find a job with a niche software company focussed on cloud and software management where I helped install server stacks and worked in their call centre. And in another holiday job I worked for MTN a leading South African mobile phone and telecommunications company.

In my summer holiday last year, I worked in London for Adolphus who provide front of house staff for leading hotels. I worked at The Churchill, Westbury in Mayfair, and the Chelsea Harbour Hotel and received positive feedback on my diligence, ability to learn quickly, as well as on my good customer and guest relations