



Timothy Solomon

“ *I believe that technology is a tool that has the power to change a business, a life and even a country...*

I believe that the next technological revolution will come from within Africa as people take the quantum leap from age-old problems of poverty and lack of resources, to uniquely African solutions.

I want to be part of that revolution. ”

Technical Summary

Backend:	PHP (Wordpress, Laravel), Python (Django, Odoo), Java MySQL, MS SQL Server, Postgres, CouchDB Linux, Vagrant, Docker, AWS
Frontend:	HTML, CSS (Bootstrap, Sass, Tailwind), JavaScript (JQuery, Electron, Angular, Node, React) Mobile (Ionic, React-Native)
Software:	Photoshop, Sketch, Git / Github
Skills & Interests:	Coding and learning new technologies UI/UX design Bitcoin

Experience

2004 – 2014

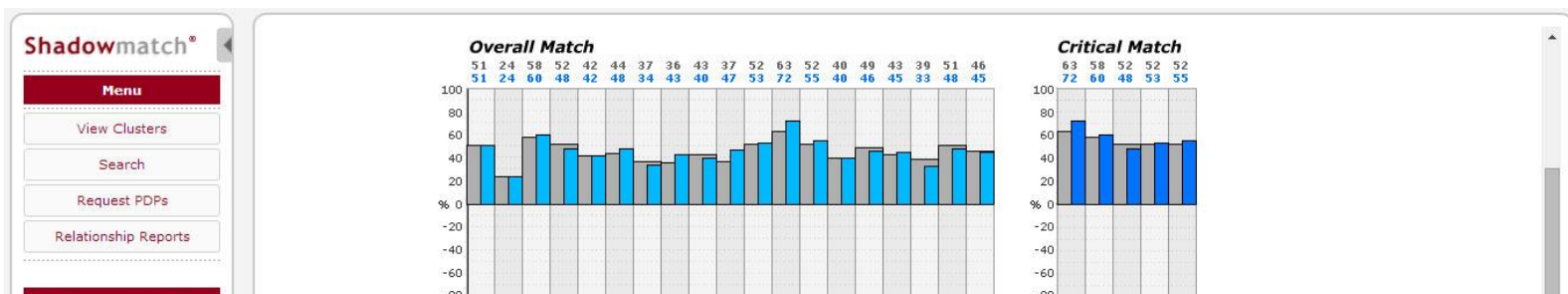
Founder and Developer – Spiraleye Studios – www.spiraleye.com

After finishing University, three friends and I started our own company. What started as a web-design business grew into a software development house, focusing on web-based applications.

Building a business from scratch is a great way to learn about business and working with other people. As a business owner I've grappled with all aspects of the business and keeping team-mates motivated and effective.

As a problem solver, I love learning new technologies and techniques to be able to have a wide range of tools to create the best solution for a client. I've worked as a jack-of-all-trades on some projects, and part of a collaborative team on others.

Some of the projects I worked on at Spiraleye:



Shadowmatch www.shadowmatch.com

One of our first partnerships was with the Shadowmatch Team. Together we built a recruitment tool and habit matching system that helps hundreds of companies across the world find and develop talented people.

I worked on the frontend (Bootstrap, JQuery and Angular) as well as the backend (PHP and Propel). Some of the technical challenges we faced were creating interactive flash graphs (later replaced with HTML5 friendly javascript generated graphs with d3.js) and printing the results in PDF. I used a webkit renderer to convert the html pages into PDF (using wkhtmltopdf).

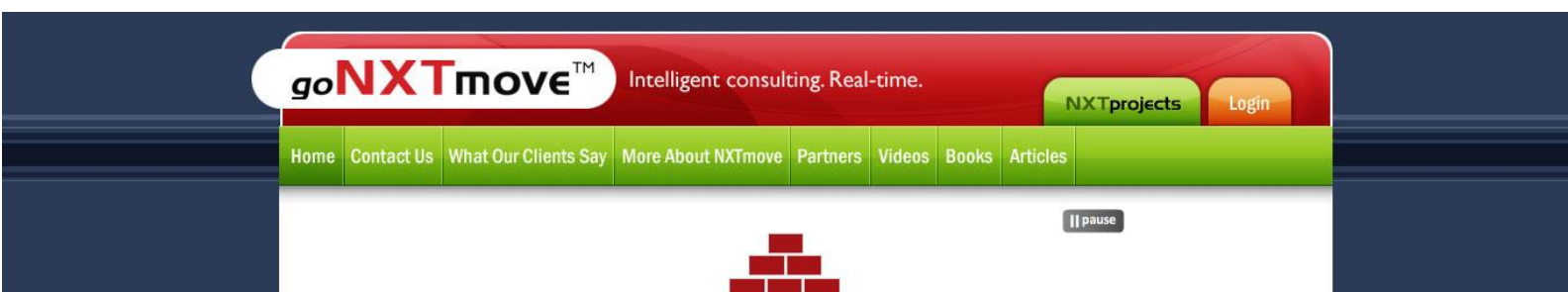
The rapid expansion of the website and its critical status to many of our clients (including UNISA, ABSA and Deloitte) meant that we tackled many growth challenges – The system is deployed using scripted “pulls” from a github repository onto staging and live servers, allowing for quick and seamless deployments.



REDS for engelvoelkers.com/south-africa

When Engel & Völkers needed a database system for their agents, they approached Spiraleye. It quickly developed into a much larger project and is now used nation-wide as their real estate management system; allowing agents to create and track properties and clients, and feed property details to various property portals (such as Property24 and Private Property) with the click of a button.

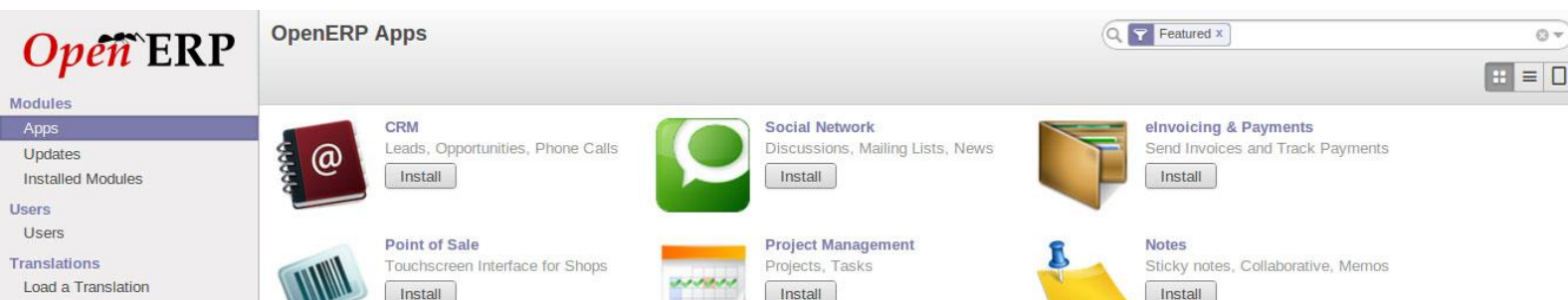
The system was developed using PHP and Mysql. As a database-focused system I helped with the query and database optimisation as well as development and frontend design. I also assisted with the online customer support, which allowed agents to interact with us directly, so we could quickly solve their problems in real-time.



NXTmove www.goNXTmove.com

NXTmove is a business evaluation and virtual consultant tool that analyses a business and gives a full report on the areas where the business is doing well as well as opportunities for improvement. It has project scopes, and an easy-to-use project management tool to allow the Exco team to execute on the in-depth advice. The system is extensively used by PWC as a value-add to their advisory clients.

The system was developed using Java, with a unique rule based XML structure that allowed us to program the complex criteria for questions and answers in the survey and the resulting report.

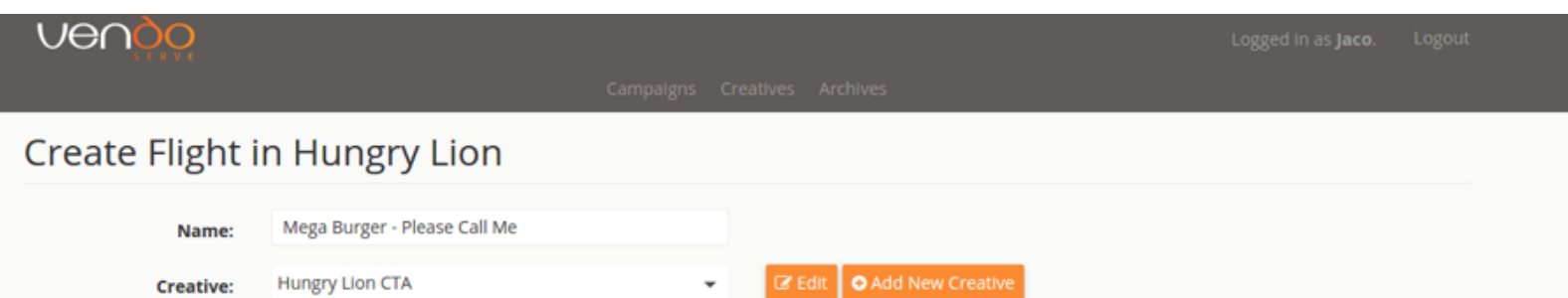


2014 – 2015

Founder and Developer – OA Solutions

One of our projects in Spiraleye had huge potential, so we moved it into its own company in partnership with Limitless Virtual. For the initial project I worked with a client in the Furniture Retail industry, customising and developing on top of odoo (an ERP system built on Python and Postgres). Much of their stock is sold on a credit agreement basis, so the system handles all the sales and accounting of the business, and calculates the interest and insurance on a daily basis. I also integrated a fingerprint reader to allow for secure and convenient log-ins.

This was the first time I had used the Python programming language and I enjoyed learning a new technology.



2015 – 2016

Frontend Developer – BrightLab – brightlab.co.za / vendoserve.com

At BrightLab I helped with building an ad server that brings together all of the fragmented mobile and text ad space in Africa. It's a small but very motivated team of people working on cutting edge technology.

Most of the team were focused on the backend system which uses Scala, and the management API which is built in Python and the Django framework. As the only frontend dev, my challenge was to use AngularJS and Kendo UI graphs to transform the raw data from the backend API into a useful and intuitive interfaces, allowing the end-user to add and track their ad campaigns.



Wilson Selomo



2017

Freelance Developer – Sovtech – bioex.tech

I had the opportunity to work with the team at Sovtech creating an innovative solution for buying recyclable goods from informal collectors. The project came with a number of technical challenges: the system needed to run on basic laptops, in rural areas, with slow, intermittent internet. Most of the collectors had no form of identification. As lead developer, I tested a number of options and found that electron was the best fit for the cross-platform desktop app. I used couchDB to allow for seamless offline-first usage and to identify the collectors, we integrated with a fingerprint reader through a custom built API.

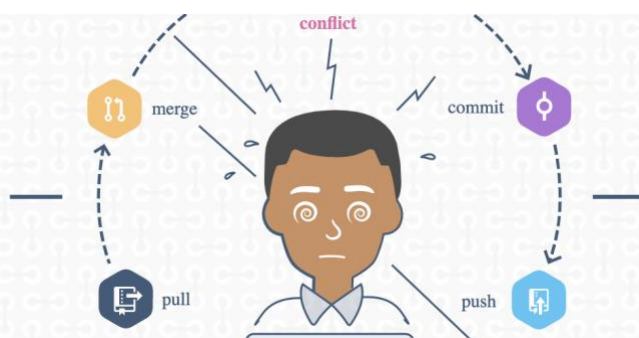
Based on the existing talents in the company (who took over the maintenance of the system) I took the opportunity to upskill myself in React / Redux frameworks. I really enjoyed the challenge, and found React to be a flexible, powerful system. It also allowed me to quickly get into mobile development with React-Native.

Developer

Business

Spend more time writing code, and less time managing it!

Lepsta is a version control and code syncing service that helps developers spend more time coding and less time managing code by automating their code management workflow.



2017-2018

Fullstack Developer – Lepsta – lepsta.tech

Lepsta is a funded startup focussing on innovative tools for developers. I was the first employee and assisted with everything in the dynamic startup life from sourcing desks for new employees to doing potential customer interviews to find product/market fit. In my developer role I was responsible for designing and building the source-management system frontend and implementing the company website in react.

Search

Advanced Search

2018-2021

Product Manager – SATS – sats.edu.za

The South African Theological Seminary is a fully online tertiary education organisation, who offer Theological degrees to customers in South Africa and all over the world. While freelancing I did some work with SATS on an urgent project updating their online application form for new students and automating the critical process, and in 2018 joined them on a full-time basis. The tech team was very small for a organisation that supports over 3000 students spread across the globe, so I had the opportunity to help with wide variety of technology and business processes. My main responsibility was to assist with the legacy Student Management System and upgrade it to more modern standards, as well as automating many of the manual processes. Most of the development was outsourced so I worked closely with the dev-team, and drew up technical specifications to reach the goals of the organisation.

The system integrated with a number of other software systems and I helped the business migrate from Pastel to Xero cloud accounting system which allowed us to automate the ordering, invoicing, payment and reconciliation of hundreds of global payments a month through creditcard gateways, direct deposits and flywire.com international payments.

*Handcrafted stories in gold*

We bring your stories to life as matchless pieces of jewellery handcrafted in gold. Newly founded in 2021, Aurum Stories takes you through the kaleidoscope wonderland of gemstones and it is here that the most exquisite creations happen.

[ABOUT US](#)

2021-2022

Freelancer

In May 2021, on my 40th birthday, I took a year off from my career path to re-evaluate life and focus on my own projects.

While freelancing I worked with a dev company on a voting system for the Arab

Parliament for Children. There were a number of interesting challenges to solve; working in Arabic and making sure everything was translated correctly in English and Arabic, and switching the interface between RTL and LTR orientation. We also wrote unit tests to ensure the voting was secure and make sure each member could only vote once, and built real-time dashboards for the administrators so they could track the number of votes.

I worked on some of my own products including a Chrome Extension for a popular Inventory Management System (ohdear.me), and upskilled myself with some react courses. I did a course on Gatsby.js and used the learnings to build a website for a client (aurumstories.com).



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guide to taking
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receive the guide right away

Most of my time and passion though went into researching and experimenting with Bitcoin. I have come to the inevitable conclusion that Bitcoin is the most important technology to be working on right now. I approached bitvice.io (the only bitcoin-exclusive company in South Africa) and worked part-time assisting them with their mission to bring self-custody bitcoin to Africa. As an early startup, I've been able to work on all areas including giving input into strategic discussions, adding marketing lead popups and pulling the YouTube feeds into the website, as well as working on the Laravel app backend system.

I worked a month with galoy.io – an international bitcoin company, and contributed to their open-source React Native bitcoin wallet. It was a great experience to see how a large open-source organisation is run and participate in the git merge-request review process.

2022-current

Fullstack Developer – Cliqtech – cliqtech.co.za

In 2022 I started working with Cliqtech on their online will system, smartwill.co.za, an innovation platform which is white-labelled for clients like Metropolitan and 1Life. As the only in-house developer, I took over the management of the existing Laravel PHP system and work closely with the devhouse that continue to build the system.

Education

BIS Multimedia – University of Pretoria

I studied Multimedia at TUKS, covering a wide range of topics from Artificial Intelligence in C++, to Design Theory and animation. I learned that University is more about learning to learn, and how to apply that to the rest of my life. I qualified the degree with distinction.

High School – Treverton College (KZN)

My parents both taught at Treverton, and I enjoyed a well-rounded education in the outdoor-focused school. My favourite subjects were Art, Science and Maths which led me to my passion for the interaction between man and computer on a visual and programming level.

Junior School – Chengelo, and Sakeji (Zambia)

I lived in Zambia for 10 years where I discovered the joys of the open bush, pyromaniac tendencies, and the allure of computers. Ironically my first interaction with modern technology (in the form of an early laptop) was powered by a solar charged car battery in the back of a mud hut. I was fascinated by the unlimited possibilities and taught myself BASIC to program simple text-based adventure games.

Projects & Interests

I love being involved in building IT based communities and empowering others to expand their skills and knowledge. I did some lecturing at TUKS as a guest lecturer, and attend, and give talks, at various meetups in Joburg including Coded in Braam (a Thoughtworks initiative) and PyConZA.

Outside of the office, I like to run. I am currently training for my 7th Comrades Ultra Marathon, and love trail running. My wife and I enjoy traveling – we lived in the UK for 18 months on secondment, where I continued to work remotely for Spiraleye. We have also been lucky enough to visit the US, the UK, Europe and Southern Africa.

I look forward to learning more about your business and discovering new opportunities with you!