

Zak Dowsett

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I am a student at the University of Portsmouth studying BSc (Hons) Computer Science currently undertaking my final year. I am a keen problem solver and constantly strive to improve my knowledge and understanding of languages such as Java , C# and Unix with programming and mathematics being my strongest and most interesting subjects at university. I believe that these skills would prove valuable in the workplace and that my placement year has helped me to strengthen these skills further. As well as my degree studies, I'm the president of the Airsoft Society which has allowed me to gain valuable experience working collaboratively with the rest of the committee and the union, ensuring the society is functioning in the best possible way, maintaining good communication skills, improving my own ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

September 2015 to Present – BSc (Hons) Computer Science at University of Portsmouth

- Achieved a 1st overall in my first and second year. Predicted a 1st for final year
- Units included: Database Design, Programming, Computer Architecture and Operating Systems, Web Design, Networking, Software Engineering, Discrete Mathematics, Data Structures and Algorithms, Operating Systems
- Current units: Final Year Project, Practical Data Analytics and Mining, Security and Cryptography, Theoretical Computer Science, Distributed Systems and Parallel Programming
- Languages Learnt: Java, UNIX, Python, MySQL, pgSQL, CSS, Lua, Java, C#, C++
- Undertook a group project in second year to design a website to replace the Student Union's current website which can recommend societies based on student interests. The design was built on the system requirements specification, which was created through market research, such as questionnaires and focus groups. Development involved HTML, SQL and JavaScript
- Learnt skills whilst doing the group project such as cooperating effectively with the rest of the team, effective communication so that everyone understands what it is they are doing. Leading different sections of the project such as database design and implementation, making sure that tasks are on track to being completed on time
- Undertaking a software engineering project in final year to design a distributed ledger system incorporating fully homomorphic encryption which is being written in C++

September 2011 to August 2015 – GCSE and A2 Levels at Barclay School

- Grade C - Maths
- Grade D - Business
- Grade D – Economics
- 11 GCSEs grades A – C including Maths (A) and English Language (C)

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT & VOLUNTEERING

July 2017 to August 2018 – Software Developer at Pear Technology

- Worked on a wide variety of software for the company, developing two different map editing products; a desktop and online variant. Also constantly created bug fixes and new features for two different online products; Map Shop and Cemetery Searcher.

- Worked as part of an agile software development team, being involved in all stages of the development cycle, such as requirements elicitation, design, code construction, testing and maintenance throughout the product's life-cycle.
- Handled a wide range of frameworks and environments such as Node.js, Bootstrap, Infragistics and many from the Microsoft .NET framework including WinForms, WebForms and MVC.
- Monitored and maintained an Amazon AWS EC2 server containing Microsoft IIS server framework.
- Maintain, build and integrate database systems into our software.
- Fortnightly sprint meetings to discuss progress and what to do next with the rest of the dev team and Director and demonstrate the program to non-developers within the company

February 2016 to Present – President of the Airsoft Society

- Elected as society President for the uni year 2017 - 2018
- Responsible for the well-being of society members
- Maintaining society equipment and ensuring all inventories are kept up to date
- Carrying out and completing risk assessments
- Ensure the society meets union guidelines and communicate with union leadership when required
- Organising, promoting, and actively participating in large events
- Organised large events for 40+ students to try out the sport which involved huge logistical challenges to overcome such as transportation and equipment as well as looking out for the welfare and safety of everybody who attended
- Won best society of the year at the Union Awards 2017

December 2008 to Present – St. John Ambulance First Aid Volunteer

- Joined the adult division in 2014 following over six years as a cadet, providing first aid care at local events such as football matches and race for life
- Successfully completed Grand Prior Award in 2014, the highest award a cadet can achieve in SJA. This included life enhancing skill topics such as leadership, team building and first aid
- Became an NCO helping lead the cadet division after completing three leadership courses, developing my ability to lead and manage difficult situations whilst under pressure
- Learnt important time and risk management as well as effective teamwork and communication

September 2014 to September 2015 – Waitrose

- Responsible for the replenishment of stock including stock rotation on the shop floor
- Keeping up-to-date and accurate records of stock levels ensuring good quality fresh stock
- Offering professional advice and assistance to customers when required
- Reliable team member
- Learnt to prioritise tasks as well as communicate and cooperate efficiently with the rest of my team

INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES

5km run, airsoft, gaming, reading and photography including image editing