Austin Birch

30 Tern Walk
Southsea
Portsmouth
Hampshire
PO4 8QG

Mobile: 07825 952061
E-mail: mraustinbirch@gmail.com
Website: http://austinbirch.co.uk

GitHub: https://github.com/austinbirch/
BitBucket: https://bitbucket.org/austinbirch/

Profile

- A motivated, hard working individual that enjoys solving complex problems.
- An eager, self-driven learner, always looking for ways to develop a deeper understanding and new things to learn.
- Successfully self-funded and gained Private Pilot Licence at the age of 19, having only recorded a few hours over the minimum required to attain it – even though training school closures caused material to be revisited.
- Created software that solves problems for myself and others, and released it into the public.
- Experimented with many programming languages and technologies in order to develop an understanding of software development.

Work Experience

Current Employment

Bottle Ltd, **July 2012 - To present date**

Co-founded Bottle Ltd where we are creating an extensible, (soft) real-time, client-side web application for managing business contact relationships.

Responsibilities:

- Developing the CRM software using a combination of technologies that include: JavaScript, node.js, mongodb, and a custom client-side framework built upon Backbone.js that is now open source (https://bitbucket.org/madebybottle/bottlecap).
- Designing the CRM software itself, and the branding for the business.
- Business administration duties.

B&Q plc., **October 2008 - To present date**

Responsibilities:

- Ensuring 100% "put away" of stock deliveries by working as part of a larger team to ensure efficiency.
- Working individually when required.
- Maintaining a high level of customer service.
- Operating equipment in a safe manner, in order to ensure compliance with health and safety rules.
- Operated the forklift truck for over two years, in a safe and responsible manner. The forklift truck licence was obtained by earning one of the best post-training test results the instructor had come across.

Previous Employment

Homebase, **February 2007 - June 2007**

Additional Skills

- Full clean UK licence that I have held since January 2009.
- Obtained my Private Pilot Licence in June 2010. Before training for my PPL, I was a member of the Portsmouth Naval Gliding Club based in Lee-On-Solent, training in gliders. I moved on to do a small amount of training there for my PPL, following closure of the school I continued training at Shoreham.
- Experience with a variety of programming/scripting languages, that I have developed upon in my own time. Examples include: C++, Objective-C, Java, JavaScript, Ruby, and Visual Basic. Also skilled with HTML/CSS, and various other markup languages.
- Experience with multiple Operating Systems (Linux, Windows, Mac OS X), and experience with database technologies such as: MySQL, MongoDB, and SQLite.

Interests

Developing my understanding of software, by creating it in my spare time.
Notable examples:

- **flightnote** - A web application built with Ruby on Rails, MySQL, HTML5 & CSS3, JavaScript, and CoffeeScript. *flightnote* is a social logbook keeping application for recreational pilots.

- **chessable** (https://bitbucket.org/austinbirch/chessable) - *chessable* is correspondence chess for casual players, allowing them to make moves from various devices. It was created to fill a niche in the market for this type of application. It is powered by a mixture of Ruby on Rails, HTML5 & CSS3, CoffeeScript, JavaScript, and MongoDB.

- **drop_dead** (Source code: https://github.com/austinbirch/drop_dead) - A HTML5 Canvas game using JavaScript to power the logic, and the HTML5 Canvas drawing API to render the game.

- **65-73-63** (Source code: https://github.com/austinbirch/65-73-63) - A Ludum Dare game competition entry, in which participants are required to make a game from scratch in 48 hours.

- Wrote the beginnings of an iOS app in C++. The application required a custom volumetric rendering engine that leveraged OpenGL for performance.

- **simperium-wrapper** (https://bitbucket.org/austinbirch/simperium-wrapper/overview) - An API wrapper for the Simperium (https://simperium.com/) database service, written for node.js using CoffeeScript.

My other interests include cycling, reading (especially fiction), playing guitar, flying, and socialising with friends.

Education & Qualifications

Portsmouth College, September 2006 – June 2008

5 A-Levels:

- Computing – B
- Economics – C
- Mathematics – D
- General Studies – C
- Physics – C

Miltoncross School, September 2001 – June 2006

12 GCSEs:

- Mathematics – B
- Statistics – C
- English Language – A
- English Literature – B
- Science (Double Award) – BB
- Information Technology & Communication – A
- Business Studies – A
- Design & Technology: Electronic Products – B
- German – D
- Music – C
- Religious Studies (Short course) – B

References

References available on request.