

Andrew L. Watts

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Professional Summary

Seasoned, well-rounded Software Developer with a decade of experience of working as part of a research team in a lab running large-scale human linguistics studies. Demonstrated independent learner who enjoys learning new languages and frameworks, solving new problems, and improving quality of existing code. History of successful projects, effectively translating domain needs into software. Capable of quickly coming up to speed on new programming languages and frameworks. Contributions to several open source projects.

Software Development: Object-oriented design, functional programming, data modeling, version control (Git, Hg, SVN), web programming

Programming: Python, Javascript, CSS, HTML, R, Ruby, C, C++, Perl, Java, Bash, Matlab, XML, LaTeX, PHP

Databases: SQL, MySQL/MariaDB, SQLite, Postgres

Server Software: nginx, Apache, OpenDirectory/LDAP, NFS

Operating Systems: macOS, Linux, Windows

Experience

University of Rochester Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences

Laboratory Technician

Rochester, New York

April 2007 – present

- Support linguistics research involving with eye-tracking, self-paced reading, and corpus searches serving within programming as well as laboratory logistics roles.
- Monitor, trouble-shoot, and update mixed macOS, Windows XP/Vista/7, and Linux network with OpenDirectory and NFS regularly immediately and effectively addressing needs of over 25 active users.
- Schedule and oversee weekly lab meetings, addressing status of specific projects, needs of users, discussions of salient current outside research, practice talks, and conference preparation.
- Manage undergraduate research assistants, regularly assessing performance, clarifying next steps in projects, and ensuring they have access to appropriate resources.
- Schedule and run experiments involving subjects for psycholinguistics studies.

Key Accomplishments

- Created a web-based system in Python (Django) and JavaScript for students in an undergraduate psycholinguistics course to design a Self Paced Reading experiment, create stimuli, run the experiment on Amazon Mechanical Turk, and collect the data for analysis.
- Wrote and assisted graduate students with writing experiment scripts in the ExBuilder experiment scripting language and using the Linger self-paced reading package.
- Wrote numerous web-based experiment interfaces for graduate students and postdocs, often implementing novel experiment paradigms.
- Updated and extended two Flash applets donated to the lab, bringing them up to current Flash standard and adding new trial types.
- Created lab web site using Jekyll static site generator and set up and maintained lab nginx web server.

Education

The Ohio State University

M.A., Linguistics (Computational Linguistics specialization)

B.A., Computer and Information Science and Linguistics

Columbus, Ohio

June 2006

June 2005