Bassel Al-Sayed

Adaptable, motivated and passionate full stack engineer with strong ethics, planning, logic and communication skills who is ideally suited for a role in a startup or corporate environment.

Background • Projects • Skills • Education • Experience • Interests

`tech stack`

`JavaScript 507 commits` `Ruby 303 commits` `CSS 408 commits` `HTML 385 commits` `SQL 55 commits`
`Python 28 commits`

Background

Unknowingly, I first started debugging around age 10. Running cracked games was often a multi-step process

During time at Brooks Holdings, was responsible for 5 businesses in 3 industries.

Brooks Holdings was a family office with a startup environment, worked closely with the Founder. Was involved with a diverse range of simultaneous projects. Shown to be a creative problem solver who contributes to his team. I have been thrown into many situations many situations outside of my comfort zone and consistently came out successful. This versatility proved beneficial throughout the Makers bootcamp.

I decided to switch careers after almost three years at my previous role when I felt the learning had plateaued. I thrive in environments with constant challenge and I'm happy I found an industry where I can combine my love of tech with creative problem solving on a daily basis.

Projects

Name	Description	Build Time	Tech Stack
Ridgewell House: Frontend, API	PERN stack staff holiday management system for a client. This has been a great project to put all my current experience into a small scale production app. Includes role & route authorization, JWT authentication, babel for latest features in Express, a custom calendar with modals, redux & thunk, formik,yup.	Ongoing	Frontend: `tech stack` API: `tech stack`
Algorithm-Visualiser	Over 150 stars on GitHub. Front page of Hacker News for 3 days. Built purely in react, this app visualises different route finding algorithms. Was a good learning opportunity for walking the user through an abstract idea. Was a nice opportunity to try hooks. Also first time looking at algorithms, learned a lot about recursion. TDD.	3 Weeks	React.js

Name	Description	Build Time	Tech Stack
[Pocket Positivity](#)	Makers Help for Heroes hackathon winner. Build an app that could help key workers during the current crisis. This is an idea I had for a cross platform native mental health personal tracker app, including mood logging (with graphing), scheduled push notifications with positive mantras and a chatbot with resources. First time using Expo/React Native. I spent an additional 3 weeks integrating with firebase and making some improvements bringing it to small scale production status.	2.5 days / 3 weeks	`tech` `stack`
Finbot: [Frontend](#), [API](#)	Final project at makers. Chatbot using react, django and tensorflow to provide brief educational responses and links to recommended resources on matters related to personal finance. It offers users the choice of additional resources on some topics.	2 Weeks	Frontend: `tech` `stack` API: `tech` `stack`
[Acebook](#)	Facebook clone in rails. TDD	2 Weeks	`tech` `stack`

Skills

Teamwork, Leadership and Soft Skills

During my time at Makers my ability to work productively in a team has increased dramatically. Although initially finding difficulty keeping my teammates in constant consideration under the pressure of a deadline, I learned patience and that I equally enjoy following as well as leading. I have strong empathy and communication skills that allow me to challenge my team and share ideas in a comfortable, non-confrontational manner. These skills transfer to managerial, presentational and client facing scenarios. I have a passion for sharing knowledge, and I enjoy helping and showing others what I have learned. I had two mentees while at Makers.

Adaptability

While growing up I lived in different environments, in my work life I frequently faced new and unexpected challenges. I have excelled in many of these situations thanks to my growth mindset, creativity and decisiveness. For our final project, we learned enough python, django, react, circleci, jest, webpack/babel to have a successful launch in two weeks. My experience shows I have the capability to survive and thrive in any work environment regardless of language experience and contribute to any team.

Problem Solving, Fast Learner

Unknowingly, I've spent much of my life trying to automate and improve systems around me. This transfers to project work where I aim to learn and understand as much as possible to gain perspective and avoid future bugs. An example of this was when learning Ruby on Rails on our [Acebook](#) project, much of the project is auto generated. When presented with the option of more auto generation for the user authentication; I put forward to my team that we should build from scratch for fear of not understanding what was happening under the hood with more new technology. Despite a day and a half of frustration the decision paid off as we gained more flexibility with our custom model.

Motivated

Although there is financial incentive in this industry. I am here because I enjoy the whole process; from the various considerations when mapping out a project, inevitably being forced to think up creative workarounds or learn a new library because it provides what is needed to the satisfaction of seeing an end product that provides a quality service to users. My motivation is internal, one of my current goals is to improve to a point I can contribute back to the developer community (by making a pull request to a major codebase or releasing a tool that could help others). I want to work in environments with fellow developers who are as passionate about engineering as I am.

Education

Makers Academy (December 2019 - March 2020)

12 week intensive coding bootcamp in which covered many industry best practices:

- Practices: OOP, TDD, Agile, MVC, Agile/XP
- Languages: Ruby, JavaScript, Python, HTML, CSS
- Test suites: RSpec, Capybara, Jasmine, Jest
- Frameworks: Ruby on Rails, Sinatra, Django, React.js
- Other: Heroku, TravisCI

Aberystwyth University (September 2012 to June 2016)

- Economics BSc
- 3rd Class
- For my dissertation I analyzed the 2008 recession from a different perspective to what are widely attributed as the main causes. The economic mindset of opportunity cost and evaluating options has been key to my approach as a developer.

Experience

Brooks Holdings Ltd (June 2016 to March 2019)
Operations Manager

- While at this private family office, was responsible for 5 businesses in 3 industries.
- Small staff meant I had to coordinate well with others, and logistically plan out how to maintain operations.
- High level of responsibility. Had to learn how to manage and train others, negotiate, find new business, write a business plan, budget, forecast, operations (accounting, legal, compliance, public relations) and schedule in a short period of time with minimal supervision or formal resources. It has contributed to my resilience and ability to work under pressure, juggle multiple balls.

Interests

Exercise, guitar, tennis, ping pong, bouldering, yoga, boxing