Ben Harrison - CV

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Education and Qualifications

University: Due to complete my final year, studying for BSc Computer Science with Digital Technology Degree Apprenticeship (at PriceWaterhouseCoopers) at University of Birmingham. I have represented the University by volunteering my free time to help at open days. This involved speaking to prospective students to help them make the necessary decisions for their future.

University Modules Studied:
First Year: Mathematical Foundations of Computer Science, Programming in Java, Introduction to Financial Analysis (10 credits), Business Organisation & Management (10 credits), Artificial Intelligence, Data Structures & Algorithms, Logic & Computation.

Second Year: Functional Programming, Software Engineering and Professional Practice, Systems Programming in C/C++, Security and Networks, Team Project (Java Game Development), Artificial Intelligence 2

Final Year: Advanced Networking, Security of Real-World Systems, Advanced Functional Programming, Computer Vision, Final Year Project (Dissertation)

I have gained good experience with Java through multiple University modules, particularly during our Team Project module where we developed a computer game involving AI-based enemies which could be played with friends across a network. I also studied key programming concepts in the Data Structures & Algorithms module and would be capable of adapting to new programming languages. As part of my Software Engineering and Professional Practice module, I studied different software development lifecycle models and what it means to design a larger piece of software, rather than smaller programs. Additionally, due to Systems Programming in C/C++ and the security modules, I have experience with Linux and the lower-level details of computers and the programs they run.

Sixth Form: Canon Slade Sixth Form
Secondary Education: Canon Slade School
A-Levels: Mathematics: A*, Computing: A*, Physics: A*, Further Mathematics: A
Extended Project Qualification EPQ: Driverless Cars. Completed an in-depth research project and essay relating to the development and ethics of self-driving cars. Presented my findings to my peers and received an A* with a mark of 46/50.

GCSEs: Mathematics (9-1): 9 (High A* Equivalent)
English Literature (9-1): 8 (A* Equivalent)
English Language (9-1): 7 (A Equivalent)
Computing, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, RS, Spanish: A*
History: A

Interests: Cyber Security, Computer Networking, Computer Vision, Software Development

Languages: English, Spanish GCSE

Technical Skills

Proficient in:
Java (3+ years)
GitHub and GitLab (3+ years)
Python (3+ years)

Familiar with:

Linux	Google Cloud Platform	CSS	Scala
C	HTML	Docker	Haskell
BASH and Shell Scripting	JavaScript	Django	Gitlab CI/CD Pipelines

Licenses & Certifications

NIST Cybersecurity Framework Professional Foundation: Issued October 2021

BCS Foundation Certificate in Information Security Management Principles: Issued September 2021

Employment

PriceWaterhouseCoopers Cyber Security Technology Degree Apprenticeship: While studying at University, I was employed by PwC During my placement(s), I worked in Cyber under the following teams: Threat Intelligence, Incident Response, Managed Cyber Defence and Advisory. I mainly dedicated my time to automating tasks by writing python scripts. I also gained experience with GCP, Docker, GitHub, GitLab Pipelines, shell & bash scripts and more, including some small exposure to Kubernetes.

> **PriceWaterhouseCoopers Cybersecurity Summer Placement 2021:** My main project involved deploy some open-source code called RansomWatch from GitHub to GCP and add a slack webhook to post notifications which notify the business when a leak-site has a new victim. I also added functionality to notify when a site is down and brought back up. I added functionality for around 20 additional leak sites by using Python's BeautifulSoup library to perform web-scraping. Another key project involved writing a script to parse IP addresses and their respective source and destination ports using the Pandas Python library.

> **PriceWaterhouseCoopers Cyber Security Year in Industry 2021-2022:** I was involved in various projects covering the following: Python and efficiency when handling large volumes of data, Google Cloud Platform, SFTP Protocol, error handling, reverse engineering of malware (shadowing), shell scripting, BASH scripting and GitLab CI/CD Pipelines.

Additional Experience

Head Boy at Canon Slade Sixth Form: This role meant acting as a bridge between my peers and the staff, representing the student body whenever necessary. It also involved representing the Sixth Form by talking to parents of students, encouraging future students, and helping to organise events throughout the year. I was also able to use my influence in convincing staff to replace single use plastic cutlery in our canteen with a more sustainable alternative.

Personal Programming Projects: Includes a steganography tool to hide and reveal text hidden in image pixel data; and a maze solver which takes an image of a maze, finds a solution, and displays the solution visually.

CTF Hackathon March 2020: Completed a series of Computer Science related problems and challenges as part of a team in a competitive event held at the University of Birmingham.

Web Development: I have some minor experience using the python-based framework Django, HTML, JavaScript and CSS. I have combined these skills with researching the Last.fm API to create my own music recommendations tool for personal use.

Pluralsight Digital Forensics Course: In 2020, I spent time during lockdown taking a beginner's course on Digital Forensics.

Python Data Analytics: Using Pluralsight, I built upon my previous Python experiences by completing a beginners' course in using Python for Data Analytics. This provided me with hands on experience in Python libraries such as pandas, matplotlib and numpy, and introduced me to using Jupyter both locally and in cloud-based systems such as Azure, Google Cloud Platform and AWS. I then completed a complementary course developing my knowledge with the pandas library and introducing me to file handling techniques within python.

Work Experience and Volunteering

Degree 53: February 2018. Visited the offices of a Manchester based software development team for a week and gained knowledge of how they use agile development methods. Adapted prior programming knowledge to a language suited to iOS.

K3 Syspro: Salford Quays. Software Development. Spent time with various departments and worked on an individual project in VB.net. 17th – 21st October 2016. Year 11 Work Experience. Found the company online. Working hours: 8:50-4:30.

PwC SMBT Volunteering: 2020. I took part in a virtual session which aimed to support Year 12 students from low income backgrounds. My role involved explaining my role with PwC as well as helping suggest solutions for supermarkets affected by COVID-19.

PwC One Firm One Day: I organised PwC's One Firm One Day volunteering event, which took place in June 2022 for the Cyber Midlands team. We volunteered at a local community centre called Welcome Change who help offer support to those recovering from addiction and in need of support with rebuilding their lives. They also spend time with local school children by inviting them to the community garden.

Previous Employment

Spar: Spar Rocket Stores, New Lane, Breightmet. Store Assistant. May 2020 – August 2020. Having my final semester of university cancelled for first year due to the Coronavirus, I sought additional work at Spar. It was a great opportunity to help in my local community.

Tesco: Tesco Superstore, Crossley Street, Little Lever. Checkout Assistant. July 2017 – August 2019. After completing my GCSEs, I began working at my local Tesco Store in Little Lever. Working on the tills was a fantastic opportunity as it allowed me to get to know better the community which I had lived in for so long. Team Leaders often noticed that I quickly became more confident and improved my communication skills when serving customers. I also quickly became better at taking initiative within my role at the store. I enjoyed the job so much that I remained working there for two years and only left due to university commitments after completing my A-Levels.

Interests and Hobbies

Rock Climbing: In my free time, I enjoy bouldering and I often go between 2-3 times per week.

Piano: 2007 – present. Grades 1, 2 and 3 – Distinction. Grades 4, 5, 5 Theory, 6 and 8 – Merit. Performed in church services occasionally and at Christmas services. Part of the band 'Soul Patrol' with Bolton Music Service (2015 - 2017).

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award: 2016. Physical Section - Jogging (3 months). Volunteering Section - Beaver Scouts (3 months). Skill Section - Piano.

References

David Cannings:	Pascal Berrang:	Dr Benjamin Eves:	Kamila Sarwar:
Director at PwC UK.	Final Year Project Supervisor at University of Birmingham	Head of Sixth Form. Canon Slade School, Bradshaw Brow, Bolton, BL2 3BP.	Team Leader at Tesco, Little Lever.
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