MATT BESSEY

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PROFILE

I am a 3rd year Computer Science student at Bristol University, freelance web developer, and Vice President of DJ Society.

Last year, I was the Events Representative of Computer Science Society. It was my duty to organise events for the 400+ CS students at Bristol University, and ensure that they ran smoothly. To do this I researched potential venues, negotiated deals with their management, and promoted those nights.

Like most geeks I also dabble in photography, shooting with a Canon 400D and touching up in Lightroom.

EXPERIENCE

Freelance Web Developer Bristol, Avon (2011 - Present)
When University leaves time for it, I take on part time web development work. See page 2 for some examples of my work.

Lead Web Developer and Server Administrator, RD Hosts Ramsgate, Kent (2009 - 2011)
I acted as systems administrator for a small company web server, as well as designing and developing several PHP + MySQL based websites, generally from the ground up.

EDUCATION

University of Bristol — CS BSc	Sir Roger Manwood's School
2010 - Present	2004 – 2010
1st Year — **69%**	**A Levels**
2nd Year — **62%**	**A** — Maths
3rd year — Ongoing	**A** — Film Studies
	B — ICT

SKILLS

I have several years experience of web development in PHP with MySQL. More recently I have preferred to work with frameworks such as Rails where appropriate. I am also familiar with Linux server administration, including securing and monitoring servers. With these skills I designed and built my own personal website **mattbessey.com** and business idea **sngtrkr.com** (see **Portfolio**).

I know my way around Photoshop and Illustrator, having used both regularly for web design as well as CS and DJ Society artwork.
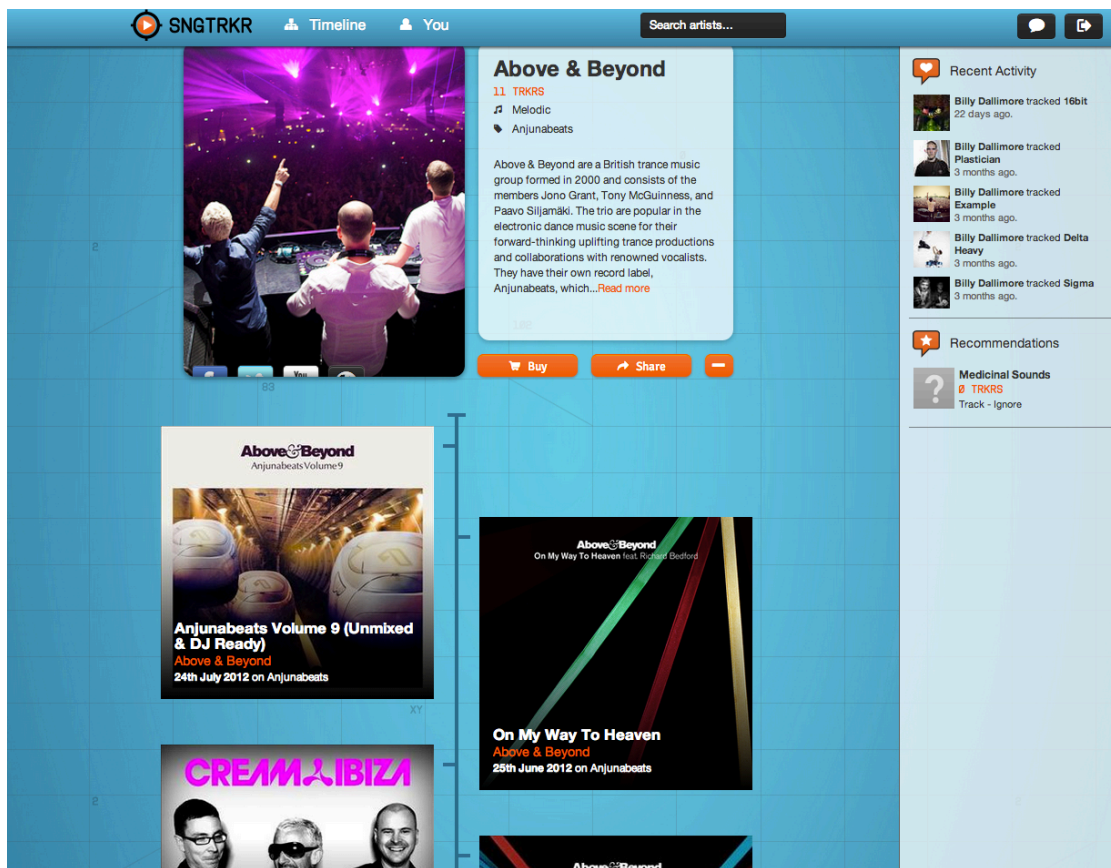
On the hardware side, I have built many PCs, and as such have a good understanding of computer hardware. On top of this, managing several Linux servers from various hosts including Amazon EC2 and Linode, has helped me learn the full web development stack.

All of this is supplemented by my on-going degree, in which I have learnt and regularly used Java, C, C++, C# and - not so regularly - Haskell. I love learning languages and am always keen to learn more, those listed are simply the ones I know best.

As part of the course I've worked on many team projects, which have given me great experience in both leading groups of up to 6 people, and following the directions of others. I have really enjoy working as part of a team, and often find myself leading simply because I've wanted the project to meet my expectations!
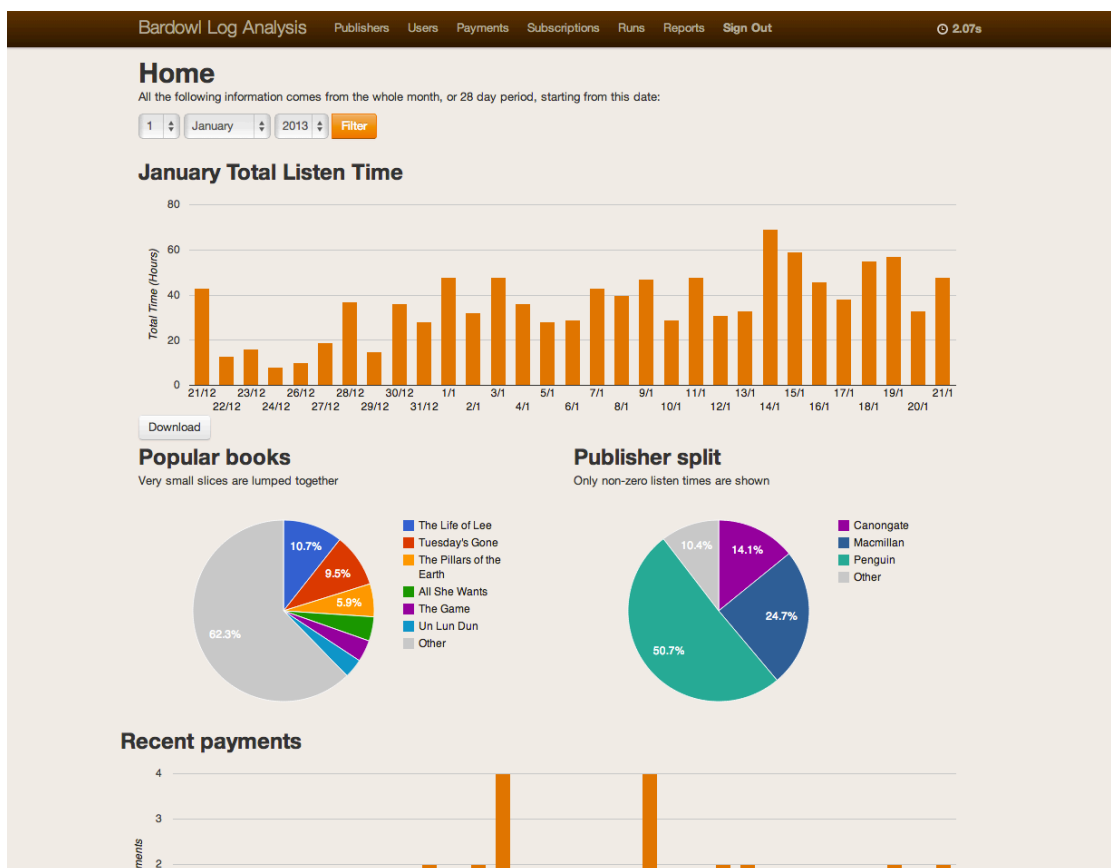
REFERENCES

Available on request.

SNGTRKR.COM

Built solely by myself and a friend, with me focusing on the development side, SNGTRKR (Song Tracker) was a business idea we developed after seeing an unsolved problem: why can't I get an email when an artist I follow releases a new album?

The site is built on Rails, and makes heavy use of APIs from Last.fm, iTunes, and 7Digital, to notify users automatically when any artists they add to the database has released new content.

BARDOWL

Bardowl is a startup offering unlimited audiobooks streamed direct to your iPhone.

I helped to create a data analytics system, from setting up the web server to designing the front end. The CEO of Bardowl, Chris Brook, said:

"Matt has done some genius work for us at Bardowl.

He took a complex data set and created a web view of the data to allow us to run our business.

He obviously applied his deep knowledge of what is available in existing systems and frameworks to over deliver on requirements quicker than expected. I cannot recommend his work highly enough."