**JAMES MACDONALD - Tester**

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**Slack:** <http://testersio.slack.com> @jamesmacdonald

**GitHub:** <https://github.com/caltonhill>

I am an enthusiastic software tester, with a particular interest in web, who approaches testing problems with a user-focused mindset.

I have experience of helping teams build the right solution in a variety of SDLC models and have collaborated with in-house, remote and offshore development teams. I blog about my process of continuous learning and improvement as a tester at: <http://knowledge-anxiety.blogspot.co.uk>

**Key personal qualities**

* I have strong communication skills
* Proven ability to quickly grasp new concepts/technologies
* I work equally effectively on my own initiative or as part of collaborative teams
* I take ownership of tasks and deliver results

**Experience and Expertise**

* Planning, designing and executing testing to help deliver: web applications (CMS and database-driven, mobile-optimised and responsive, including pay-walled content and contextual functionality); web services; MS Windows applications; mobile apps on iOS and Android; user management systems; infrastructure and application upgrades; email CRM systems.
* I have evolved my preferred test approach from "traditional" scripted testing to focus on leaner, more powerful, Exploratory Testing - combined with Session-Based Test Management techniques for reporting and gauging coverage.
* I have a particular interest in the cognitive aspects of testing.
* I am influenced by the Context-Driven Testing movement
* I am experimenting with Selenium WebDriver as an automation tool for regression checks, and am studying basic coding (Ruby).
* I am experienced in requirements gathering, analysis and setting scope.
* I have a background in Digital Marketing, particularly SEO and email marketing.
* My customer-focused approach has been influenced by time spent supporting customers, creating product documentation, creating training guides and through regular contact with customers.

Currently studying: “Ethical Hacking: Hacking Web Applications” *(Pluralsight)*

Currently reading:“Learn Ruby Programming by Examples” *(Zhan)*

**User support:** Issue management and resolution. Creation of training and guidance documentation. User communication. Liaising with infrastructure teams; managing planned or unexpected system outages. Co-ordinating and guiding internal-customer UAT

Tools and technologies I have explored either for work or for my own interest include:

Selenium WebDriver, Ruby, Firebug, Browser Developer Tools, Sauce Labs, Applitools Eyes Express, Ubuntu, Google Analytics, Google Search Console (Webmaster Tools), Fiddler, Rapid Reporter, IntelliJ, Java, Aptana Studio, RSpec, GitHub, Subversion, VirtualBox, VMWare, JIRA, TestLink

**Certification:**ISTQB (ISEB) Foundation Level Tester *(August 2008)*

**Employment**

**QA Test Engineer** Becrypt, London 06/2014 – Present

Tester in product-based agile teams.

Becrypt specialise in Enterprise-level security solutions for mobile working. Including full disk encryption products for Microsoft Windows, and secure centralised Mobile Device Management for iOS, OS X and Android.

- Delivered multiple version releases across the product range

- Introduced lightweight documentation for test plans, test results

- Presented team learning sessions on topics including inattentional blindness, Session-Based Test Management, web security

**Test Analyst** IT Jell, remote working 05/2014 – 06/2014

Short-term contract testing major upgrade to a suite of B2B websites, including the introduction of a tiered membership structure. As well as performing my own exploratory testing, I handled triage and management of issues raised by an offshore test team.

Sabbatical 02/2014 – 05/2014

- Testing on a number of web and mobile projects for clients of Bugfinders

- Completed courses on topics including Selenium WebDriver, Ruby and Java programming and Critical Thinking

- Attended TestBash 2014 and other testing meetups

**Senior Test and Support Analyst** EMAP, London 03/2008 – 02/2014

Sole tester in Digital team developing and supporting multiple products across various platforms.

- Project managed introduction of IP-based corporate subscriptions to EMAP’s pay-walled websites. Defined requirements and scope; briefed supplier; carried out testing. Created guidance documentation for internal users

- Personally undertook project to analyse, monitor and improve performance (page load times) of websites

- Functional regression testing of all EMAP’s main applications and platforms for move of infrastructure to new hosting provider

- Tester on multiple other projects including introduction of subscriber-only email newsletters; launch of mobile-optimised and responsive websites; tablet apps.

**Project Test and Support Analyst (contract),** EMAP 07/2007 –02/2008

Major project to launch new-platform websites for EMAP’s ten leading B2B news brands - successfully rolling out 10 websites in 13 weeks.

- Testing and issue management. Liaising with developers

- Supporting Project Management team

- Liaising with, and advising, business teams to deliver sites to individual brand requirements

***Interim Marketing Manager*** *EMAP Construct, London 04/2007 –06/2007*

**New Media Marketing Manager** Campden Publishing, London 11/2006 –03/2007

Developing brand-specific news and information-based websites for the business.

- Revitalised stagnant project, gathering requirements and introducing project plan, timetable and milestones for all involved parts of the business

**Marketing Manager** BRE Press,London01/2004 –08/2006

Delivering revenue targets across subscription products and one-off publications: setting and managing marketing budgets; devising and implementing marketing strategy across on- and off-line media. Managing Marketing Executive

- Collaborative, hands-on, build and launch of *www.brepress.com* e-commerce website

**Marketing Manager** EMAP Construct, London01/2002 –12/2003

Managing marketing for 3 business units

- Consistently increased traffic levels on *CareersInConstruction.com* under conditions of minimal investment and resource. Eg. No. of users in Oct 03 an 84% increase on Oct 01.

- Initiated company’s use of PPC to drive further traffic

**Previous roles**

**Senior Marketing Executive** EMAP Digital 10/2000 – 12/2001

**Senior Marketing Executive** Metal Bulletin Plc 7/1996 – 9/2000

**Circulation Marketing Manager** EMAP Media 6/1992 - 7/1996

**Senior Sales Support Exec** Guardian Royal Exchange 10/1990 - 4/1992

**Circulation Manager** Centaur Communications 3/1988 - 9/1990

**Technology courses and study**

See “Courses” under LinkedIn profile : <http://uk.linkedin.com/pub/james-macdonald/37/627/227>

**Community and Meetup groups**

* Slack Tester Community *(@jamesmacdonald)*
* Web Devs of the Shire
* London Tester Gathering