**JAMES MACDONALD - Tester**

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**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/caltonhill>

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

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

I am an enthusiastic software tester, who tackles testing challenges with critical thinking and a user-focused view. I have experience of helping teams build the right solution in a variety of contexts and have collaborated with in-house, remote and offshore development teams. [Knowledge-anxiety.blogspot.co.uk](http://knowledge-anxiety.blogspot.co.uk) – my blog about testing, my process of continuous learning, and how I share knowledge with my teams – has been praised by leading Testers [Damian Synadinos](https://twitter.com/dsynadinos/status/806505653757943808) and [Maaret Pyhäjärvi](https://twitter.com/maaretp/status/841371050608844803).

**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 and APIs; MS Windows applications; mobile apps on iOS and Android; user management systems; infrastructure and environment upgrades; email CRM systems.
* I have evolved my preferred test approach from "traditional" scripted testing to add 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 and how knowledge of psychology can be used to improve our work
* I have experimented with Selenium WebDriver as a tool for automated regression checks and am studying basic coding ( mainly Ruby).
* I am experienced in requirements gathering, analysis and setting scope.
* I have a background in Digital Marketing, particularly SEO and email marketing.

**Self-study and Continuous Learning**

See “Courses” under LinkedIn profile : <http://www.linkedin.com/in/james-macdonald-22762737>

Currently studying: “Hack Your API First” *(Troy Hunt, Pluralsight)*

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

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

*Fiddler, Postman, Ruby, Browser Developer Tools, VMWare, Zed Attack Proxy, Rapid Reporter, Selenium WebDriver, Ubuntu, Windows Server, RSpec, GitHub, Sauce Labs, TestLink, JIRA*

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

**Employment**

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

Tester, emphasising Exploratory Testing, in product-based Agile (scrum) teams.

Becrypt specialise in Enterprise-level security solutions for mobile working. Including secure Mobile Device Management for iOS, MacOS, Android and Linux ; and full disk encryption solutions for Microsoft Windows.

- Introduced lightweight documentation for test plans, test desgin, test results

- Introduced Test Team Lean Coffee sessions for knowledge-sharing

- Created 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 at Media Owner exploring 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