SAM DESBOROUGH

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Profile

A focused, enthusiastic and creative developer with a wide range of technical expertise.

Skills

- JavaScript (Node.js (express), AngularJS, ReactJS)
- PHP (Magento, Drupal, Wordpress)
- Python (Flask)
- MongoDB, MySQL, Redis
- Extensive git experience
- Google Cloud platform
- Manual cross-browser/device testing
- Strong verbal and written communication
- OS X, Windows and Linux (Debian/CentOS), command-line fluent

Relevant experience

Software Engineer - The Guardian, January 2015 - present

Developer on the Commercial team, working in Scala and JS. I was a key part of bringing the new responsive image format (using img srcset/sizes) to the site, and have worked on an internal tools including advert performance analytics, a PhantomJS script to capture ad slot positions at various breakpoints, and a script to ease developer workstation setup.

Lead Web Developer - Dalton Maag, February - December 2014

Lead developer for a brand new site for type foundry Dalton Maag. I introduced an agile workflow for the project and selected the technologies to use: MongoDB stores the site's content, which is exposed through a Node.js/Express-powered RESTful API to two custom-built AngularJS applications: a CMS and the public-facing site itself, which includes functionality to buy fonts hooked up to the Stripe payment gateway. Tests are written in Jasmine, with Supertest to target the API.

I've worked closely with in-house design throughout the project, and the site consumes an existing API that provides retail data. I've also written Ansible scripts to deploy the site to Google Compute Engine VMs.

PHP Developer - Kurt Geiger, April 2013 - February 2014

Back-end developer for a range of Magento modules, such as a custom CMS used by the marketing team to maintain promotional content, Amazon MWS integration to synchronise products between Magento and Amazon Marketplace, and an equivalent system for selling on eBay. My testing experience enabled me to add Behat acceptance testing into the team's process. As well as the larger projects I also tackled ad-hoc site issues.

QA Engineer - Kurt Geiger, Nov 2011 - April 2013

Lead tester for a redesign of kurtgeiger.com. My contributions to the team included Cucumber, for automated testing, introducing a feature branch-based git workflow to the team, and overseeing the launch of a new mobile site. Being a point of liaison with both product owners and developers has allowed me to gain a clear understanding of business requirements whilst ensuring the highest technical standards.

Support and QA Analyst - Digital Mail Ltd, Sep 2009 - Nov 2011

Customer support and a variety of technical duties, including a significant amount of manual testing of their web-based virtual telephony software. This included raising and writing reports on issues and working with developers on their resolution. I was also responsible for the development of a Drupal knowledgebase.

Education

Roade School - Northampton - 1996 to 2003

A-levels in Computing, English and Media Studies. GCSEs in Maths, English Language, English Literature, Science (double award), Computing with Business Studies, Geography, Media Studies, Drama, French, Electronics.

References

Available on request.