Simon Foster

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Profile

Developer experience includes fixing bugs and adding new features to the internal line-of-business SQL Server databases and our SaaS website. I have been involved in the complete range of developer tasks, from gathering requirements from key stakeholders, designing and building a suitable solution, testing the suitability of my solution, gathering feedback from stakeholders and deploying the final solution.

Dynamic IT Manager with experience of Windows Server 2003/2008/2012, Active Directory, Group Policy, Exchange 2003/2010, SQL Server 2005, Symantec BackupExec, Symantec Endpoint Protection, XP/Windows 7/10 and strong problem solving skills. Other Experience includes Linux/Fedora experience including configuration of Nagios system monitoring.

Work

June 2014 - Present

Developer/IT Manager for Eurosafe UK

In addition to my IT Manager role I also project manage and work very closely with our external development team to deliver improvements to our Cloud computing (SaaS) platform working with Visual Studio, Azure, git and SQL Server. I also continue to develop our internal line-of-business applications written in SQL Server using MS Access VBA front-ends. Previous projects include automating the asbestos Management Re-Inspection process from booking audits right through to invoicing, creating systems to manage asbestos contaminations and no access areas and restructured and improved reporting for the company's project diary. I have experience of DevOps, installing and maintaining a TeamCity build server to deliver frequent updates to our internal databases and our SaaS product while minimising downtime for the business.

January 2011 - June 2014

IT Manager for Eurosafe UK

Manage the IT department for Eurosafe UK, responsible for the running of all the IT systems, and managing the workloads of the other IT staff members. Involved in network upgrade project in consultation with the company directors. Deal with Contractors and Consultants to ensure delivery of solutions to day to day problems. Ensure the smooth running of the companies Cloud computing products.

October 2006 – January 2011

System Administrator for Eurosafe UK

Worked as part of the IT support team, providing front line support to the company, which includes support via phone/e-mail for two branch offices in Derby and Basingstoke. I also provide phone/email support to clients and contractors for a busy data sharing website. I am responsible for ensuring the weekly backups run, administering users and computers with active directory, maintaining the company websites, maintaining FTP, VPN and Exchange, converting Health and Safety files into HTML and all other IT related tasks.

May 2005 – October 2006

Customer Service Representative for Norwich Union

Worked as part of the Agency team, tasks included transferring customers Collective Investments from one Independent Financial Adviser to another, updating IFA commission accounts, dealing with queries from our Call Centre and other commission queries. I have been involved with training our call centre on how to check for commission information for IFA's and customers.

Work included dealing with customer's benefit forms and associated evidence, making sure they were returned promptly to the customer, making sure they were scanned and indexed onto the system, updating various spreadsheets used for statistical purposes, collected mail out.

September 2004 – November 2004 Administrative Assistant for Pesticide Safety Directorate

Work included booking staff onto training courses, updating Learning and Development website, ordering specialist equipment for staff, and other duties as required.

November 2003 – September 2004 Administrative Assistant for Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

Provided project support to the Livestock Register Project, work included filing, arranging meetings (room bookings and liaising with delegates). Responsible for team's procurement (involved carrying out all purchasing and expenditure monitoring for the team). Arranging teams travel and hotel bookings and other duties as required. I have attended various training course while there including ones on Interpersonal skills and Team Building.

Education

1999 - 2003	MPhys (Hons) degree (2:2) in Experimental Physics University of York
1997 - 1999	Redhill Sixth Form Physics (A), Maths (A), Chemistry (C), Further Maths (D)
1992 - 1997	Redhill Comprehensive School GCSE 9 A* - D including Science, Mathematics and English

Voluntary Experience

In 2007 I created a php/mysql website from scratch that could run a simple camera club website. Features included different levels of permission, some users can upload photos only, some had permission to add news articles etc, auto generating thumbnails from the files uploaded, calendar of club meetings, slideshow of images and many more. I also provided support and training to the camera club of the website.

Between June 2014 and August 2015 I helped coordinate the volunteers that operate the projection PC during services at St Michael le Belfrey.

Hobbies and Interests

In August 2015 I became a father to James, so much of my free time is spent with my family. I also like Star Trek, science fiction and of course keeping up with the latest technology.