Blanca Mendizabal Perello

I'm a full-stack software developer, currently focused on Ruby on Rails, Node and modern front-end technologies such as React. Enthusiastic learner, strong communicator, and reliable team player.

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Skills

Technical: Front-end development (JavaScript, React) | Back-end development (Ruby, Ruby on Rails, Node.js) | Pair-programming | Test-driven development | Object-oriented design | Agile methodologies

Behavioral: Project management | Problem solving | Adaptability | Communication and collaboration | Empathy

Experience

Front-end Developer at *DevHub (Seattle, US)* Sep 2017 – Now

- Fixed and updated the front-end testing framework to allow continuous integration using CircleCI.
- Built new features on the company's main product according to client specifications.
- Refactored the main codebase, built using Backbone and CoffeeScript, splitting code that referred to different projects in order to make it cleaner and more readable to future developers.
- Improved internal documentation on front-end testing and workflow checklist for new hires.

Sustainability Consultant at *Little Bee Community (London, UK)* Oct 2013 – Aug 2016

- Led a three-year-long project in Africa, defining weekly tasks and monthly milestones, as well as tracking and managing costs and suppliers ensuring goals were met on time and on budget.
- Co-designed and launched a hydroponic urban farm in London that reduced crop's water needs by 90% and doubled its yield, gaining buy-in from a range of local stakeholders.
- Reported directly to the CEO, and managed and mentored a team of four interns.
- Played a lead role in developing impact frameworks and reports.

Agricultural Engineer at *Battle McCarthy (London, UK)* Jan 2013 – Oct 2013

- Led efforts to maximize food production using hydroponics.
- Taught myself Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator.
- Created appealing diagrams for shortlisted landscaping competitions and corporate materials.

Environmental Engineer at *Aqualogy (AGBAR group) (Madrid, Spain)* Sep 2011 – Sep 2012

- Conducted compliance checks to enforce European laws regarding water treatment.
- Designed a working methodology for the analysis of biological quality parameters of Spanish rivers that ensured best practices on sample collection.

Personal projects

These are some of my side projects. You can see more in my Portfolio page or my GitHub profile.

Flashcards – *React, Jest, Enzyme, Ruby on Rails, RSpec, GitHub OAuth, PostgreSQL* – 45 days

- A self-service tool for users to learn through spaced repetition.
- Once the user is authenticated, they are able to create, edit, and delete flashcards.
- I split the front-end logic into smaller, stateless, well-tested components.
- High test coverage helped keep complexity under control and implement bug-free logic.
- Having gained more than 40 users in the first month after being released, it had really good acceptance and received valuable feedback from real users.
- App: groundberry.github.io/flashcards-client
- GitHub: github.com/groundberry/flashcards-client

CSS Playground – *React, Jest, Enzyme, HTML5, CSS3* – 10 days – Final project at Makers Academy

- A live-editing HTML and CSS tool built by a team of 4.
- Users with no coding experience can create basic website drafts, and download the code.
- Despite being my first time using React, I became productive after just one week.
- I played a key role making sure every member of the team felt heard and valued.
- App: css-play.herokuapp.com
- GitHub: github.com/groundberry/CSS-playground

Flickr Gallery – *React, Jest, Enzyme, Sinatra* – 5 days

- A SPA that retrieves images from the Flickr API so users can search for pictures.
- I built a small proxy using Sinatra, to deal with CORS and to avoid exposing API keys.
- Designed following a mobile-first approach, using media queries to display the images nicely as the size of the screen changes.
- App: groundberry.github.io/flickr-client
- GitHub: github.com/groundberry/flickr-client

Education

Software Development Self-Training Jan 2016 – Now

Self-directed study with online sources and textbooks focusing on:

- Single-page apps using React; APIs using Express, Sinatra, or Ruby on Rails; algorithms and data structures.

Onsite Software Development Bootcamp at Makers Academy *(London, UK)* Aug 2016 – Dec 2016

- Highly-selective 16-week full-time program where I demonstrated **hungry for learning** and **adaptability to high pressure situations**, being able to learn a new technology every week completing all the assignments with great feedback from my coach.
- During the course I showed excellent **communication and collaborative skills** by helping classmates with their assignments and questions. I also started my own blog, which I maintained weekly during the course and won the final competition.

M.Sc. Environmental Engineering and Management at EOI Business School *(Madrid, Spain)* 2010 – 2011

B.Sc Agricultural Engineering at Technical University of Madrid *(Madrid, Spain)* 2000 – 2008