

Curriculum Vitæ for Nicholas Avenell

(2012-04-17 - Web Dev)

E-Mail: Nicholas@Istic.Net - Telephone: +44 7909 547 990

Location: London E5

Key Skills

10 Years Development Experience.

Management of developers and liaising with project managers and stakeholders for project development.

Keyword Loaded Technology Experience Block:

Linux/Unix: Debian, Ubuntu, Red hat, Centos, Apache, MySQL, Nagios, Building and maintaining server systems, Fault-finding. Solr, Lucene, Amazon EC2, ELB, S3 & AMI images, Practical application of cloud computing systems, SVN, Trac, SNMP, Git, Github, Gitis

Coding Languages: OO-PHP (5 especially), Django, Python, Ruby, Ruby on Rails.

Web: LAMP Stack, HTML, XML, CSS, Mobile Web, JavaScript, DOM Scripting, JSON, AJAX, RSS, Atom, SAX, WAI, Django, Smarty, Python, CGI, jQuery, HTML5

Desktop: OS X, All versions of Windows from 2.0 though to Windows 7

Other Things: Wordpress, SMS Interfaces (Both sending and receiving), API development, API clients, Clients, Customers, , Bug tracking systems, Unit Testing, Code Procedures, Provision of cookies and cakes

(Not an entirely comprehensive list)

Personal Statement

I am Nicholas Avenell, I'm a Development Manager, and professional Generalist, having previously worked as a Developer and System Administrator. As a Sysadmin I've worked to spec, deploy, maintain and support multiserver environments with minimal downtime for external customers such as banks, mission critical applications for both them and my own employers. As a developer I am proficient in both front- and back-end design, specialising in the latter. Recently I have been developing a product-search solution for Skimlinks, prior to that I was involved in site architecture and provisioning systems for trutap, and for my previous company developing their Mortgage Application Tracking System for Abbey, Nationwide, Standard Life, Yorkshire Bank and a series of other companies. I have a solid understanding of CSS, X/HTML & DOM Scripting, and try to encourage clean, accessible use of this new and tempting technology. I believe strongly in easy to use, accessible, content focused web development. I am a strong supporter of process in code design, full source control and change management. Outside development, I manage online communities devoted to my hobbies as well as advancing my own projects.

Experience

Zappit.co - Senior Developer

<http://zappit.co> - February 2012 - Present

Zappit are leaders in the field of NFC and QR based marketing.

I am a Developer for them.

LanguageLab.com - Lead Developer

<http://www.languageLab.com> - February 2011 - January 2012

LanguageLab run an english school in a full virtual city.

My central role was to manage development and technology for the entire company, from interfacing with Linden Labs over our Virtual City platform, though to managing projects and additions to the website, right down to sourcing computers for new hires. I was also heavily involved in the outsourcing of aspects of development (mostly

localized sites) to external parties.

Key responsibilities:

- * Management of the technical department, with all the developers reporting to me
- * Executive level oversight of future development plans and ideals
- * Management of all servers and systems
- * Other roles as required, from operations though to assisting with office management.
- * Liaising with external contractors and development houses

Istic Networks - Director

<http://www.istic.net> - From November 2010

Istic networks is my own company founded as an umbrella for my contractual roles, including development of a mobile application platform as well as various other, smaller projects in line with my previous experience.

Gyron Internet - Systems Developer

<http://www.gyron.net> - March 2010 to October 2010

Gyron Internet are a data-centre hosting provider who needed a new developer for their customer facing support portal, as well as their internal monitoring and business management intranet. I was the sole developer on this system for this time, implementing features targetted by management with mostly free reign of precise implementation details, design and flow. Shifting priorities within the company led to my being made redundant. Skills used during this role included:

- Systems administration of a Centos-based development server and also deployment environment
- setup and maintainance of Gitosis, a hosting environment for Git source control repositories.
- Installation and maintainance of a Trac issue tracking and milestone management system
- Integration of web interfaces with SNMP gates to CBus-based building management systems.
- HTML, CSS & JQuery-based web design & AJAX development
- As-needed covering of data-centre technician roles.

Skimlinks - Senior Developer

<http://www.skimlinks.com> - March 2009 to February 2010

For the multiple award winning affiliate marketing company Skimlinks I was brought on as the company's third full-time developer and second sysadmin.

- Systems administration - including on call - for full server suite, based on Centos, spread over four data centres on two continents
- Development and depoloyment of Amazon EC2 images and instances, including load balancing
- Fullfillment of business-related new services, such as client data upload over FTP without compromising our security.
- Setup and configuration of Apache/mysql/PHP Lamp stack, also isolated Java webapp instances
- Introduction and configuration of Nagios-based system monitoring
- Lead responsibility for a complete product API system, taking the product databases from hundreds of ecommerce sites and normalising them into a single system encompassing five million products, updated daily (Everyfeed).
- Designed and developed a public API for the above.
- Developed a socially responsible shorturl service (good.ly)
- Introduction and maintainece of milestone/ticket-based development lifecycle
- Reviewing, interviewing and hiring further developers
- Being a point of contact for third party technical departments.

Doof.com - Senior Developer

January 2009 - March 2009

For a social gaming company I was plunged into a preexisting unfinished codebase with the absolute minimum of handover, and developed it to the point of launch. I was also responsible for setup and maintainance of dev and

live server environments based on Amazon's S3 and EC2 cloud computing systems and implementing a better process for development.

Trutap - Web Developer

<http://www.trutap.com> - January 2007 to December 2009

For mobile web startup Trutap (though I original joined before the rename from 'hotxt') I was hired as a backend developer for the new generation of their product, released to some fanfare at the TechCruch 40 event in 2007.

Roles included:

- Working with Product management on vision implementation
- Full user registrant and provisioning process including phone identification and complex paths though the provisioning process
- Full ajax-based messaging interface, designed to scale down to mobile-level browsers
- maintained customised Wordpress and BBPress installs for the company community management
- Integrating our own autherisation system with that of BBPress.
- Working against a detailed XMLRPC Based API
- Facebook Application development
- Occasional customer support
- OpenID integration

Evolving Media - Technical Developer (Special Projects)

<http://www.evolvingagency.com> - October 2004 to January 2007

Evolving Media - now Evolving Agency - is a web systems and marketing Agency based in Bedford.

- Sourcing and researching server solutions for multi-server applications including future growth allowances and security concerns.
- Monitoring and maintenance (using variations of Whistleblower, Nagios and scripting) of EM's 30+ server network across three separate locations and operating platforms (OS X, OS 9 and Linux)
- Desktop Support for all employees (OS X, Linux and Windows XP)
- Maintenance and eventual deprecation of legacy email systems (EIMS on Mac OS 9) to a modern and open source solution based upon Debian Linux
- Introduction of source control (CVS) to development process.
- Support (including Out of hours support) for EM's diverse web systems for clients including Charles Wells, Barclays, Tesco, Nationwide, Abbey.
- Redvelop and maintain EM's "MATS", now used by 4 of the top ten mortgage lenders in the country, including Nationwide, Yorkshire Bank, Standard Life and three separate subsections of Abbey. MATS is a web-based Mortgage Application Management System. (MATS has since been spun off into a new company <http://www.matssoft.co.uk/>)
- Project-based development of web sites & applications for many clients, including web sites for Tescos, Barclays, Greene & Co, Charles Wells, T-Mobile, Samsung and many others.
- Development and deployment of a business-critical, secure SMS gateway system for the sending of account balances over SMS as well as notifications for MATS, using a combination of Python, Python over CGI and PHP.
- Employee of the year, Managing Directors Special Award, Dec 2006.

BrowserAngel - System Developer

July 2003 to October 2004

BrowserAngel was a classic DotCom company, devoted to the creation of a social bookmarking/content recommendation engine, I was the second, and shortly afterwards only, developer.

Internet Designers Limited - Graphics Developer

September 2002 to December 2002

Contracted to IDL as a graphic designer for a series of PDA and Mobile Phone based Java games.

Education

University of Sunderland 09/1999 - 07/2001: HNC Computing
Mascalls School 1991 - 1999: 3 A Levels, 9 GCSEs, Headmaster's Special Award

Interests

I have a curse of being interested in almost everything, and so I do many things in my spare time, many of them involve cooking; writing; many, many computer games (Particularly first person online shooters, Action and RPG games); more traditional role-playing (including Live Action Role-Playing, for which I manage a community for a popular game); out of the ordinary board games; and coordinating & facilitating improv storytelling groups in a leadership role.

I also enjoy long walks on the beach, should I find any.