Jon Robson

HOMEPAGE: https://jdlrobson.com
EMAIL: jdlrobson@gmail.com
HOME LOCATION: San Francisco, United States

Profile

I was the first frontend hire for Wikipedia's mobile web experience. I've built experiences that cross over 200 languages and serve over three billion monthly page views, with a strong focus on mobile and leadership.

Education

- The University of York, Heslington, York, England BSc Computer Science (Oct 2003 - Jun 2007)
- Southend High School for Boys, Southend , Essex, England (Sept 1996 - July 2003)

Experience

- **Frontend engineer; Senior software engineer; Technical lead, The Wikimedia Foundation, (Feb 2012 - present)**

  Have worked closely and effectively with designers; engineers; testers and product owners and guided a small team of 5 engineers as a technical team lead.

  Highlights include:

  - Built the frontend for the Wikipedia mobile site to enable billions of people to experience Wikipedia on their mobile phones
  - allowed users to edit wikipedia by creating the first mobile editor
  - saved users 450 terabytes of mobile data per year by lazy loading images
  - built APIs in Node.js to power Wikipedia experiences such as the official iOS and Android apps.
  - provided new Wikipedia experiences by building Wikipedia nearby and page previews to improve discoverability of Wikipedia's content
  - refreshed the typography of the Wikipedia desktop site
  - mentored students via Google Code-in and Google Summer of Code so that they could become involved in the Wikimedia movement

- built a trending API and prototyped a [progressive web app](#) to demonstrate new opportunities with the latest web technologies (service worker and web push).
- Reduced technical debt through involvement in UI and frontend standardisation initiatives to improve developer efficiency

Have worked on a huge array of projects including new features for Wikipedia, primarily with a mobile focus, including photo uploading, editing and curation tools. In addition to this I have rewritten projects riddled with technical debt; overseen huge design changes built mobile web apps using native web APIs; helped standardise a frontend architecture, helped build out quality assurance infrastructure.

- **Lead developer, Osmosoft, BT, London (Sept 2008 - Feb 2012)**

  Core developer on the open source projects [TiddlyWiki](#), [TiddlyWeb](#) and [TiddlySpace](#). Lead developer on the award[1] winning website for The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association ([ILGA](#)).

- **Software engineer, BT, Ipswich (Mar 2008 - Sept 2008)**

- **Business Proxy, BT, Ipswich (Sept 2007 - March 2008)**

- **Web developer (internship), Airbus, Bristol (Aug 2005 - Aug 2006)**

Key skills

JavaScript (expert) **HTML (expert)** **CSS (expert)** **PHP (LAMP)** **Python**

Node.js

Feel free to talk to me about:

- libraries and frameworks such as LESS; jQuery; Templating libraries e.g. Hogan/Mustache and React.js
- my experiences with modern JavaScript; progressive enhancement; the latest web standards; mobile first responsive design
- My experience with open source (good and bad!) and mentoring volunteer contributors
- git/svn and the unix command line
- skunkworks; agile; kanban and scrum

Interests

[Travel](#) and [writing](#) are my main interests in life. I am currently trying to learn how to read Chinese.

References

Available on request.

[1] BT was recognised in 2009 by the IGLCC as the most LGBTI friendly organisation in the world.

The HTML version of this CV is available at http://jonrobson.me.uk/static/cv.html and is marked up with the hresume microformat and various others. This cv is also available in pdf and txt format thanks to html2txt.

Note that I prefer initial contact via e-mail. Last updated October 2017