Rachel Newby

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Junior Software Engineer

I'm an enthusiastic and curious full stack junior software engineer who enjoys creative problem solving, making things, learning new skills, following processes, and working in a team.

As a Makers Academy graduate, I'm skilled at working in agile environments, test-driven development, object-oriented programming, front- and backend development, and at quickly learning and adapting to new technologies.

Prior to training as a developer, I worked in PR and corporate communications for over a decade in a host of sectors, including technology, healthcare, automotive, education, finance, and legal. During this time I honed my communication, strategic, and business acumen skills. You can read my blog which details my career change journey.

Technology Skills

Experienced with: Ruby, JavaScript, React, Node, Express, Jess, Cypress, CSS, HTML, RSpec, Mongodb, GitHub
Exposure to: Python, Sinatra, Ruby Active Record

Project Examples

I've worked on a number of projects, here is a selection of some of my favourites. For my complete portfolio, please see my GitHub page.

Destination Unknown   **Group project**

Tech stack: JavaScript, Node, React, HTML, CSS, Jest, Cypress

A flight price comparison site that allows users to compare two cities, displaying itinerary options and general city data for their destinations.
- Worked on the frontend and backend
- Built in API calls
- Created frontend components to display data
- Managed elements of CSS
- Handled edge cases

View Destination Unknown

aceBook   **Group project**

Tech stack: JavaScript, Node, React, Mongodb, Express, HTML, CSS, Jest, Cypress

A social media web app which enables users to sign up; login; write, edit, and delete their own posts; like other posts; and add other users as friends.
- Built on an existing codebase and worked on both backend and frontend
- Built a feature to display other users, and enabled users to add other users as friends
- Seeded data, and handled test and production databases
- Debugged a number of issues

View aceBook

Sent-Ence-Iment   **Pair project**

Tech stack: Python, Flask, JavaScript, React, Pytest Cypress, CSS, HTML

A mobile-responsive app which measures the sentiment of user input using natural language processing.
- Worked on both backend and frontend
- Designed and built endpoints
- Built front end components to take in user input and to display data
- Debugged a number of issues

View Sent-ence-iment

Recent Professional Skills & Experience

Senior Communications Manager   Nov 2021 - Aug 2022
McKesson UK
- **Strategic:** reviewed and improved the readability, structure, and content of the corporate website
- **Calm under pressure:** managed urgent media enquiries and issues on sensitive topics
- **Strong communicator:** managed colleagues' expectations, briefed and worked with C-suite

Corporate PR Manager   Apr 2019 - Aug 2021
Auto Trader
- **Creative problem solver:** worked with external agency to improve engagement of corporate website
- **Attention to detail:** edited Annual Report and various other reports for errors and verified data points
- **Collaborative:** worked on projects with colleagues from other departments, including developers and data scientists

Senior Account Manager   Apr 2018 - Mar 2019
Specialist (a FleishmanHillard company)
- **Problem solver:** worked with clients to develop user requirements, worked with developers to build out solutions
- **Anticipate client needs:** approached clients with solutions to potential issues that had not been recognised to optimise their websites
- **Leader:** managed multiple colleagues and worked with them to develop their skills

Senior Account Manager   Sep 2017 - Apr 2018
Plaster Communications

PR & Internal Communications Manager   Apr 2016 - Sep 2017
University of Roehampton

- **Effective communicator:** read and dissected complex research papers to translate them for wider audiences

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Education & Achievements

Makers Academy   Nov 2022 - Mar 2023
Makers is an intensive 16-week bootcamp, led by industry-leading engineers. It's designed to produce self-sufficient software engineers by equipping them with the skills they need to excel as developers.
- Learned the fundamentals of programming: pair-programming, TDD, OOP, debugging, and how to write clean, high quality code
- Undertook multiple group and solo projects, building full-stack programs from the ground up, and building on top of existing codebases; worked in agile environments

SheCanCode PowerHack   March 2023
Took part in a hackathon dedicated to creating an app to support women's safety. Part of the winning team of five, we successfully designed and built a back- and frontend for our app, Home on Time.
From the eight teams that were there on the day, Home on Time was selected as the winner by the team of judges.   **[View Home on Time](#)**

Code First Girls   May 2022 - Sep 2022
Code First Girls is a social enterprise which offers coding courses for women and non binary people.
Intro to Web Dev (May - June 2022), Python and Apps (July - Aug 2022), JavaScript (Sep 2022)

Southampton Solent University
BA(Hons) Public Relations and Communication

Interests

Play the tenor bass in a steel drum band
Mind campaigner - support the charity's campaign to improve access to mental health support
Keen interest in health and fitness
COVID vaccine assistant - supporting the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine