Martin Allison

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I'm a pretty average guy that likes programming, learning languages and, more-and-more, creative things. When I'm doing work that I'm interested in, I'm extremely dedicated. I like doing things the right way, but can balance that with the pragmatism of getting stuff done. Currently somewhere between La Paz and Buenos Aires, but looking out for interesting work, anywhere in the world.

Work

Potato • Senior—operations liaison (early '17—oct '17)

A brief role—intended to be rotated every three months—where I helped to attend issues of company direction, working with the company operations team as the voice of the senior dev team.

Potato • Senior developer (mar '12—nov '17)

I became a senior dev at Potato after helping to steer a failing project to delivery. At the time I didn't actually realise what I was doing, so I did this by being human and honest to the client, our managers and people on the team. That's gone on to define my style of working with people and projects since. Key things I did throughout these 5 years:

- Worked with many excellent teams of people
- Wrote, tested and reviewed 100,000s of lines of Python
- Helped look after developer happiness
- Lead and oversaw backend development and overall project delivery of ~25 projects—most on Google's App Engine platform
- Worked with sales team to bring new-business ops to development and pitch for projects
- Worked with designers to gather requirements, produce wireframes and write project proposals
- Built a couple of Android apps—something I'm still learning
- Interviews and reviews of job applicants
- Delivered feedback to team members
- Extensive client communications, technical and non-technical
- Worked with clients like Google, TATE, BBC and the Duke of York

Potato • Junior developer (jun '11—mar '12)

General web development role, biased towards backend development with Python and Django, on Google's App Engine when it was a fledgling platform.

Maplecroft • Various summer internships ('07—'09)

Now obsolete front-end web development with jQuery, doing battle with browsers like IE6, IE5.5 on Mac and Netscape.

[La Vigna Ecofarm](#) • Volunteer farm hand (feb '18)

I worked on a farm in Uruguay for a month. There I satisfied a craving for, and learned the value of, doing physical things, working with animals and land.

Study

University of Strathclyde ('07—'11)

Electronic & Electrical Engineering (EEE) BEng • 2.1
I studied EEE for four years, excelling at programming (achieving various 100% marks) but not so much at the electrical parts. I left before doing my masters to work for Potato instead.

Skills in general

- General aptitude for programming and its applications
- Specific expertise with Python, Django and libraries in that ecosystem like Django Rest Framework, etc.
- Have a lot of experience working with non-relational databases—mostly Google's Datastore
- Good awareness of design and design practices. Designers often asked for my input to both usability, information architecture, and logic of design while at Potato
- Failed to keep up with latest front-end developments while at Potato, but solid foundational knowledge of HTML, CSS and JS remains
- Speak Spanish, Greek to varying levels. Have a varied meta knowledge of many languages and linguistics
- Very good written communication skills, enjoy creative and critical writing