MIKEWEST

Professionally programming for the web since 1998, Mike has been involved in a wide variety of projects ranging from one-off brochure sites to large-scale, highly-available applications.

Mike West is a web developer: he builds websites that *delight* and *inform*. He does it well.

Applicable Buzzwords
JavaScript, CSS, HTML, AJAX, PHP, Python
ARIA, UI, i18n, l10n, Perl, OO, SQL, XML
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Ever so brief bio

In 2003, I graduated from the **University of Texas at Austin** with a degree in Philosophy and minors in Computer Science and German. This liberal-arts background is fairly unusual among programmers; I see it as a distinct advantage. Philosophy provides solid mechanisms for analyzing problems thoroughly, and crafting solutions in a clear and systematic way.

I left Texas in December 2005, eventually landing in Munich, Germany where I now live and work. Currently I'm part of the online arm of the Süddeutsche Zeitung, responsible for building and maintaining **sueddeutsche.de**.

Expertise

The foundation of any page or application is well formed, semantic **HTML**, styled with clearly structured **CSS**. I write HTML documents carefully, adhering to standards as strictly as is reasonable while remaining flexible in the face of browser inconsistencies. I have an opinion about the semantic meaning of elements, and do my best to ensure that the content I mark up is correctly represented.

JavaScript has also become a critical part of any web application's **UI**. I've published a number of articles regarding its use for publications such as *Digital Web*, *A List Apart*, and Opera's *Web Standards Curriculum*. I believe strongly that the pages and applications I produce ought be accessible, meaning (among other things) that core functionality must be available to all. Whenever possible, the JavaScript I write enhances unobtrusively while degrading gracefully.

My core competency lies in the *elegant combination* of these three frontend languages to create *delightful user experiences*, and the design and construction of a backend delivery system to ensure that as many people as possible see the results.

Recent Experience

Senior Web Developer at **Süddeutsche Zeitung (sueddeutsche.de)**   **Jan. 2009 – Present**

Together with my team, I'm responsible for the channel through which some 25 million monthly visitors obtain Süddeutsche's unique blend of news and opinion. In close cooperation with designers and journalists, I turn raw layouts and hastily-specified requests into polished implementations. At SDE, my primary focus is front-end work; HTML, CSS, and JavaScript run through me before they go live, and I have a hand in the architecture and build-out of the site's PHP-based rendering engine.

Web Developer at **Yahoo!**   **Nov. 2006 – Dec. 2008**

In 2006 I helped build the current iteration of Yahoo! News in the European market. I worked closely with the engineering, user experience, and product groups to construct a frontend framework that simultaneously supports users in five languages in five markets, and serves well over ten million hits daily without breaking a sweat. Through the latter half of 2007 and first half of 2008, I was the sole web developer on the project, responsible for frontend maintenance from top to bottom.

Application Engineer at **RightNow Technologies**   **Mar. 2005 – Jan. 2006**

I worked directly with clients to customize RightNow's complete CRM solution to meet their needs and to integrate it into pre-existing backend systems. My role ranged from small tweaks to the software's UI, up to sweeping rewrites that created completely new functionality. Both on- and off-site, I served clients like Motorola, Orbitz, and PricewaterhouseCoopers, and was responsible both for scoping each project and implementing the scoped changes.

Web Programmer at **Dallas Airmotive**   **Aug. 2003 – Mar. 2005**

I helped design and implement Turbine Update: a suite of applications responsible for internal ticket tracking for IT and maintenance departments, and for a client-facing system allowing customers to track their engines' repair status. It's a large PHP-based system that touches every department in the company, and interfaces with SAP.