

Olly Spooner

Contact info

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CV

Professional Summary

I am an experienced Analyst, Developer and Development Manager with over 20 years of experience in software development and IT management. I am skilled in Mendix, Web apps, and project management. I have led my team to deliver innovative solutions that have improved efficiency and user experience in many areas.

Skills

Management skills

- Line management experience
- Project management

Analytical skills

- Problem-solving
- Systems analysis and architecture

Technical skills

- Mendix, JavaScript, Java, C#, PowerShell, XSLT, XProc, HTML/CSS
- CI/CD, Docker, Linux & Windows servers, NGINX
- Systems integration, APIs

Data skills

- Database management
- SQL (Postgres, MS SQL, MySQL etc.)

Other

- 3d modelling and CAD

Employment history

Development Manager @ ShelterBox Trust

November 2013 - Present

- Specialised in software development, started as part of a much smaller IT team

- Developed applications using SharePoint and later Mendix.
- Developed a donation system that reduced processing time by over 75%.
- Contributed custom modules and widgets to the Mendix community.

Shop Manager @ Sea Kayaking Cornwall, Falmouth

April 2012 - October 2013

- Managed bookings, customer service and payments, coaches and equipment.
- Managed the accounts, sales and stock for the shop.
- Occasional guiding.

I.T. Manager @ Philip Whear Windows & Conservatories Ltd., Redruth

March 2004 – March 2012

- Managed IT hardware and telephony systems.
- Managed window and conservatory software.
- Managed the paint shop.

Artwork @ Eden Project, St. Austell

May 2003 – December 2003

- Painted a mural and various "hidden" messages around the site.

Building work in Aveyron, France

February 2003 - May 2003

- Assisting in converting a derelict barn into a habitable dwelling.

I.T. Manager @ General Pattern Co. UK, Basildon, Essex

July 1999 – February 2003

- Managed rapid prototyping machinery (SLA/SLS).
- Repair and processing of 3d CAD.
- IT support.
- Programmed CNC milling equipment using gcode.

Education

BA (hons) Three-dimensional design

Kent Institute of Art & Design, Rochester - Sept 1996 to July 1999

BTEC Diploma in Foundation Studies

Falmouth School of Arts - Sept 1995 to July 1996

A-levels

Truro College - Sept 1993 to July 1995

- Art & Design, Design Technology and Computing.

GCSEs

Penair School, Truro - Sept 1988 to July 1993

- English Language & Literature, Design & Realisation, Art & Design, Combined Science (Dual), Mathematics and History.

Other interests

In my spare time, I enjoy the outdoors: walking, camping, kayaking, canoeing and climbing. I am a Scout leader with the Stithians Scout Group and a long-standing member of Falmouth Canoe Club.

Personal statement

Olly Spooner - Personal statement

With extensive experience in small and medium-sized organisations, I have developed a strong ability to identify and execute tasks independently, often with minimal support. I also relish working with and sharing ideas with others, both inside and outside of a formal team. My diverse background has equipped me with a broad perspective, allowing me to avoid tunnel vision and provide well-rounded and sometimes novel solutions.

Balancing user-driven and developer-driven approaches has enabled me to deliver optimal solutions that prioritize performance, security, functionality, and usability. My experience working with both internal and external stakeholders has honed my skills in gathering and defining user requirements, even for those who are not actively engaged in the project. While at ShelterBox, I have successfully developed solutions for very different areas of the business, namely Fundraising and International Programmes.

I am adept at communicating with users of varying levels of technical understanding, helping different stakeholders define their needs and constraints. My ability to visualize processes and translate them into more digestible forms ensures a collaborative and engaged project environment. I also work closely with external technical teams, advocating for software systems with integration and extensibility features to avoid future limitations.

I have developed applications using both low-code (Mendix, PowerApps) and traditional programming platforms (Java, JavaScript, PHP, C#). Using a blend of compatible technologies has allowed us to take advantage of the speed of low-code while being able to add extended functionality that would not be achievable using only that approach.

Our team employs Agile SCRUM methodologies for Mendix development, and I have recently obtained Prince2 Foundation certification to enhance my project management skills. Our development process follows a standardized cycle, including requirements gathering, implementation, testing, and release stages. We utilize two-week sprints to plan and review our progress, continuously improving our processes. This approach to development allows us to be extremely flexible as we can quickly pivot as needs evolve.

I have seen the Microsoft Online platform evolve over the last 11 years and have a proven track record of administering and developing applications and integrations with it (M365, Azure, SharePoint, Power Platform). My expertise includes creating Model-driven and Canvas PowerApps, connecting systems to reduce data duplication and task repetition, and creating middleware solutions using tools like Power Query, Power Automate, PowerShell, Python, and XProc.

With over 20 years of experience in administering various relational database systems (including MS SQL, Firebird, PostgreSQL, and MySQL), I have provided everything from data entry services, through querying and reporting for data retrieval, to writing the entire database from scratch. Often these database systems provided the backend to a CRM (CARE NG, Blackbaud CRM) or ERP and financial systems (Access Dimensions), so I have learned to query and correlate data across some very different systems. More recently, we have begun the move to Dynamics CRM and Business Central, allowing me to further broaden my technical capabilities.

I am passionate about working closely with users to develop data models and processes that form the foundation of effective solutions. This collaborative approach fosters a shared understanding of issues and solutions, leading to successful project outcomes. I greatly enjoy meeting and working with new people, always trying to be a positive influence on any workplace.