**Interview: Front-end Web Developer**

Answers were recorded to the best of my ability using a laptop during the interview. - Nitaf.

**1. Please tell us about your IT work. What exactly do you do?**

I am a front-end web developer meaning that I do the client-side work for websites. My job basically entails creating websites using systems such a JavaScript, HTML, CSS and other tools you may have heard of. I use data and information provided to me by my clients and convert that into a graphical interface that can be used to interact with potential consumers of my client’s product or service.

**2. Please tell us about the industry you work in.**

In the industry I work in, I know many people that prefer to stay with one company and also others who choose to take temporary contract jobs like myself. The industry is a quite flexible one. This industry requires a high degree of communication between the front-end developer and other parties such as clients, back-end web developers and potentially team members.

**3. What other kinds of work do you have to do?**

Typically, I do contract jobs. This means that I do the front-end web development   work for many different people. My contracts vary from job to job, however, I prefer to focus on working with small businesses.

**4. Who are all the different people you interact with in your work? Please tell us about them.**

Currently I interact with small business owners, designers and back-end developers. The designers provide me with wireframes and graphical representations that I will be needing to create a website. The back-end web developers essentially focus on databases, servers and the utilisation of certain programming languages such as Java and python. The reason that I work with them and that any front-end web developer must work with them is because websites must be able to smoothly integrate with databases and other systems that a company or other clients may have. Login screens are a small example for what front-end and back-end web developers have to work on. Clients such as business owners are the ones who ask me to create websites for them. Usually I meet with with them and plan as much as possible before I start working. Communication is very important and interaction with clients and other parties must be done throughout the web development process.

**5. Please tell us about your interactions with other IT professionals.**

As I explained, sometimes I work with graphic and user experience designers as well as back-end web developers and other front-end web developers to create a finished and fully functional website that can interact with and attract potential readers or customers.

**6. What about your interactions with clients or investors?**

When I first started working as a front-end web developer I used to work for a company. Working for a company at the start of your career would be recommended and most likely the safest bet to earn a good income. I worked with them for roughly 4 years before I moved on to contract jobs and working with other companies. As a result, I have interacted with managers, employees, business owners, app developers et cetera. I have not personally worked with investors but there are people who own a certain percentage of the public companies that I have worked at through the Australian Stock Exchange which may count as investors.

**7. What aspects of your work do you spend most time on? Please tell us about these.**

I typically spend the most time on the actual client-side development of websites through the use of HTML, CSS and JavaScript. This stage usually takes the most time but is just as important as all the planning and communicating with the right people. I have to not only make sure that the code I write is what is wanted and needed by my client but I also must ensure that the scope of the project is going in the right direction and that I am on track regarding how much time I have for a job.

The reason that coding/developing the website is the most time consuming is because of how content heavy that stage is.

**8. Which aspects of your work do you find most challenging?**

One of the most challenging aspect that I find personally would be having to keep up with all the new technologies and frameworks (JavaScript frameworks) that are coming out and to familiarise myself with them as much as possible.

**9. Finally, can you share an example of the work you do that best captures the essence of the IT industry?**

An example of the work I do that best reflects the IT industry would be the planning and early development of a website up to the finished product. This is due to me having to sometimes work with several IT professionals to get the job done.

One of the tasks that I had worked on with the first company that hired me was a group project to develop a website for an organisation that required a major overhaul on their already existing website. A team project in my opinion would be one of the best examples that captures the essence of the large variety of technology jobs that you must interact with in the IT industry.

From what I remember, we had user design experts and graphic designers pass ideas and prototypes from the client to my development team. We needed to create a rough website and to talk to the back-end developers about what interactions and information will be required for when the website is completed. This included elements such as login screens, buttons and data that had to be pulled from servers and displayed on the organisation’s final website. After feedback from the client and after many iterations of website prototypes, we created a finished product. Most of the occupations in the IT industry require at least some degree of communication with clients and/or other IT professionals.