

4 September 2003

To Whom It May Concern.

Ref: Simon Kingsford

I have known Simon for five years, first as a developer, and latterly as a friend.

He is greatly talented in his profession and, most importantly, highly respected by his peers. Simon's enthusiasm is infectious, and I am sure he will do a fine job of communicating that to anyone that works with him, or anyone he is teaching.

Over the years he has worked closely with me and some junior colleagues of mine, and we have all learned a great deal from him. To communicate with others talent is not enough - you need to be modest, to encourage others to experiment, to be committed to personal improvement, and to be generous with praise and support while not compromising excellence. Simon balances these competing demands very well, and leads by setting his own example of very hard work and continual learning.

I have worked in the computer and related areas for over 30 years, and in that time have met many people with talent and ability. Most are players, and some are stars. Simon is a star, and I am sure will be an excellent mentor for any young person fortunate enough to work with him.

Philip Smibert