

Tom West

Junior Software Engineer

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Personal Statement

Physics graduate with a strong passion for coding and using my analytical problem-solving skills to contribute innovative solutions in software development. I have recently finished an intensive Software Bootcamp which has given me a diverse array of technical skills and experience with paired programming. I am eager to apply my logical mindset, creativity, and desire to learn to help me reach my goal of being an elite software engineer.

Technical Skills

Languages: Javascript, using Node.js and browsers as environments.

Testing: Test-Driven-Development (TDD), Jest, SuperTest.

Front-end: React, Next.js, HTML, CSS, Tailwind and other accessibility tools.

Back-end: SQL, PSQL, Prisma, seeding, migrations.

Soft skills: paired programming, technical communication, agile and SCRUM methodologies

Other: hosting with Netlify, experience with Git, using Figma, basic experience using Python

Projects

Gym App with Next.js - Front-End, (Dec-Jan 2023), [Repository](#)

- This three-week group project resulted in a functioning gym app, built using Next.js and Prisma, which could track a user's gym progress and post it on their profile.
- I stepped up to head the front-end and tasked myself with learning Next.js and Tailwind in a couple days, which I successfully adapted to.
- Overall, I completed the majority of the final front-end product, with error-handling, and gained experience reading and understanding Prisma.
- I led and participated in daily stand-up sessions to understand the group's progress and problems to increase productivity on the project.
- Participated in a video demonstration of the app which can be found in the repo link.
- A challenge I faced on this project was when a group member abruptly left after app planning was completed, meaning I had to re-plan and adapt to a larger work load.

News App with React and PSQL- Full-Stack, (Dec 2023), [Front-End](#) [Back-End](#)

- This solo project involved creating an API using Javascript and PSQL to produce a News App in React.
- Thorough testing and error-handling was set up for the design of the server to ensure stability within the back-end.
- The front-end included an advanced design with adaptability for varying screen sizes as well as sophisticated error-handling.

Final Year Project, University of Bath (2023)

- Made large electrical adjustments to a remote-control car and used C++ code for an Arduino micro-controller to make it follow a group of instructions at the push of a button.

- Used Python to mathematically analyse my datasets and creatively present them in various graph types, all to use in my 6000-word report.
- Confidently presented my findings weekly in front of my supervisors, communicating what I had been working on, and what was to be accomplished.
- Completed two presentations in front of examiners, enhancing my presentation and Q&A capabilities.

Work Experience

Trainee Software Developer, Northcoders (Oct 2023 – Jan 2024)

- Recently completed a 13-week intensive Software Engineering course which has educated me in a diverse range of coding languages and solidified my technical skills and interest surrounding software engineering.
- Working regularly with new partners has hugely strengthened my technical communication, adaptability and comfort in driver/navigator roles.
- Covering challenging new topics daily has fostered my ability to quickly pick up new skills.

University Experiments, University of Bath (2019-2023)

- Carried out numerous complex experiments, both individually and in groups, which often included coding in Python to present data, strengthening my skills in this language.
- I wrote Python code that simulated the physics of a Kater's pendulum to calculate various associated parameters and code that compared images of the night sky to detect passing comets and used LaTeX to produce my report.
- Gained leadership skills by planning group experiments, guiding the team to successful outcomes under time pressure, and fostering effective collaboration and communication.

Assistant Badminton Coach, 2014-2019, Watford Grammar School for Boys

- Regularly supervised large groups, often having to abruptly step up to lead them when the head coach was absent, building up my experience in handling leadership.
- My ability to adapt to sudden change through the absence of leadership was solidified.
- Overall led to competitive success in local tournaments.

Oxfam / Shop Assistant, Summer 2019, Rickmansworth

- There was a strong balance between working individually in the store and working with the team in the back.
- I learnt that maintaining a healthy atmosphere is vital to sustaining peak productivity.

Education

The University of Bath, 2019 – 2023, Bath

- Physics BSc, 2:2 (with mitigating circumstances).
- High 2:1 in final year project (despite strong setback due to mitigating circumstances): "Can a full-scale vehicle be dynamically modelled as a small-scale vehicle?"
- Other Relevant Modules: Experimental Physics and Computing (63%), Mathematical Methods for Physics (58%)

Watford Grammar School for Boys 2012 - 2019, Watford

- A-Levels: AAB | 11 GCSEs: 3A*s, 4A's, 3B's, 1C