

Profile On: David Gagnon

Technical Skills Background:

(List coding/markup languages, CMS environments, Databases, Applications etc.)

SKILL	TYPE	YEARS EXP.	DESCRIBE MOST INVOLVED PROJECT
HTML	Markup	19	Developed quite an extensive list of HTML websites over the years, some for big names such as Novabus, Bell, UMQ, and other government sites. I learned coding before it was even taught in schools! If I really have to pick one project in particular that I proudly both designed and built entirely from scratch using strictly HTML, it would be the ATEQ (<i>Association du transport écolier du Québec</i>) website many years ago back when I was working at Propage in Québec City. The innovative design at the time and the challenge to turn it into HTML code was quite significant.
CSS	Markup	18	One brilliant use of CSS worth mentioning would be last year when I was working on an internal project at Softvoyage, which was to redesign their search engine's interface (Sirev) and making it fully web responsive. The code I've produced allowed to re-structure elements and completely change the appearance of the site depending on which platform or screen size was being used. I used Twitter's Bootstrap as the framework behind it but heavily customized the CSS specific to the project to fit their needs.
JavaScript	Client-side Scripting	17	JavaScript has always played a significant part of my work but I used it a more specific fashion in a recent interactive greeting card project for Softvoyage, in addition to jQuery to create beautiful 3D snow effects and coordinate the animations.
Adobe Photoshop	Graphic Design	17	Learned most of the powerful features of this application when I was studying graphic design. I designed quite a lot of various graphics, corporate websites, printed materials and also retouched images and photographs on a daily basis using it. See Portfolio
Adobe Illustrator	Graphic Design	17	Learned the powerful possibilities of this application at the same time as learning Photoshop. Designed various logos using it, some of which you can find in my portfolio.
Flash	Multimedia / Animation	17	From the very beginnings of (then Macromedia) Flash, I quickly got into it and learned how to create interactive animations. I created some neat animations for Hydro-Quebec as a preview to their new offices they were opening in Quebec City around the year 2000.
Linux	OS	17	I Installed, configured and managed SUI's email, file and web servers, which were all based on Linux Debian. I also have put in place and managed 3 IT labs that were running Ubuntu Linux for the children to use.
ASP	Server-site script engine	12	First time I used a server-side script engine was ASP, which I used mostly in order to avoid unnecessary repetition of code when I was building the website for Camps-Odyssées: https://www.camps-odysee.com/

Moodle	CMS	10	At SUIS in China, on a Linux server I installed, configured, customized and trained the staff on the use of this Learning Management System based on the Moodle CMS. I also maintained it for years, upgrading it from version 1 to version 2.
Wordpress	CMS	10	Started using Wordpress a long time ago, but recently had to chance to go much deeper into its code by building the Softvoyage website. Challenges included making changes to the basic Wordpress code to allow some tweaks regarding language changes and making it work within the custom theme we've designed.
PHP+MySQL	Hypertext Preprocessor	10	While working in Shanghai's SUIS primary school, I built a custom, web-based application allowing the school's administration to enter information on students, take track of attendance, write reports, etc.
Drupal	CMS	5	Upgraded the school's website to Drupal and configured it in order to make it more user-friendly for all campuses to be able to individually edit their own parts of the website, without affecting other content.s
HTML5	Markup (+JS, jQuery)	5	Recent progress in regards to what's possible to achieve with the HTML language combined with technologies such as JavaScript and jQuery allowed me to do things that were previously only possible using Flash. A recent example of my work using HTML5 can be seen here in this interactive greeting : http://holidays.softvoyage.com/2013/
Jquery	Client-side Scripting	2	I recently discovered jQuery and it became very handy for a lot of my work, however I particularly enjoyed using it on this Wordpress (http://www.avenirdm.com/) based website I've built last year, which allowed me to build interesting interactions within the theme such as making images become in color while rolling over the mouse, etc.

Company: Softvoyage www.softvoyage.com

Since 1987, Softvoyage has been powering the leisure travel industry by delivering innovative and robust IT and distribution solutions. Softvoyage solutions enable the management, distribution and procurement of travel services for hundreds of tour operators, flight wholesalers, travel suppliers and travel agents.

Mandate:

The main project where I was involved the most was the revamp of their search engine's web interface, in order to make it fully responsive and better adapted to today's reality in regards to people using tablets and phones to access the internet. I also did general graphic and web design, as well as front-end development work. I was also responsible for building and maintaining their new website based on Wordpress (www.softvoyage.com), and worked on web and printed advertisements and documents.

Day-to-day duties include: Designing (mockups with Photoshop), front-end coding (HTML, CSS, JS, jQuery, PHP), designing advertisements, editing and designing brochures, technical papers on APIs, etc.

Three key impacts on the business:

- Brought their search engine to the next level and up par with competition by doing a complete revamp using Responsive design technologies.
- Launched a brand new website to represent the company publicly on the web.

- Significantly improved printed works such as advertisements and technical papers to make them look more professional

Reason for change:

Looking for increased responsibility, opportunities for growth, and career advancement.

Compensation breakdown:

Base Salary: \$45,000

Vacation: 2 weeks

Other: iMac and own private office

Company: Shanghai United International School www.suis.com.cn

Shanghai United International School (SUIS) provides a bilingual curriculum in China. It aims to provide students with two high-grade educational components – An English-rich, bilingual, truly international curriculum through the IB Primary Years Programme and International Curriculum of England Chinese (Mandarin) language and Mathematics through the Chinese national curriculum. Students at SUIS enjoy the best of both worlds.

Mandate:

Taking charge of basically everything IT within the organization. Propelling the school to higher standards when it comes to network infrastructure, email services, education software and licenses, Learning Management system, etc. Built main websites and email as well as file servers. Also provided technical support and training to staff and students, built web-based administrative applications, acted as an IT facilitator in order to support teacher through the use of IT in their daily activities, putting in place library system, etc.

Three key impacts on the business:

- Installing, configuring and customizing a Learning Management System based on Moodle, which greatly improved interaction between teachers, kids and parents through an on-line web interface. Students could submit homework through the LMS, teachers reviewing it online, etc.
- Putting in place a reliable email and file server based on Linux. Fixed a lot of problems regarding reliability, stability and uptime of all systems.
- Major revamp of the school's website based on Drupal, which allowed staff from each different campuses to update only the parts of the website assigned to them.

Reason for change:

Get back closer to family back home in Canada and allow spouse to pursue job opportunity in Montreal.

Compensation breakdown:

Base Salary: \$65,000

Vacation: 2 months

Other: Yearly bonus

Company: Propage (Marketing Agency) www.propage.com

Companies focus on their business; Propage takes care of their communications.

Mandate:

Building various web solutions for some major companies and government websites. From the design in Illustrator and Photoshop to building the entire website using HTML technologies

Three key impacts on the business:

- Innovated by creating ambitious designs and giving them life through HTML
- Brought ideas and concepts to life using Flash
- Extra skills such as ability to compose simple electronic music helped in some projects.

Reason for change:

Desire to fulfill bigger dreams and ambitions by moving to fast paced, quickly developing Shanghai, China.

Compensation breakdown:

Base Salary: \$45,000

Vacation: 2 weeks

Other: Good respect of employees and team spirit

What are your compensation expectations?

Base Salary: \$65,000

Vacation: 2-3 weeks

At this stage why are you interested in this opportunity and what value do you bring to this position:

With around 10 years of experience working in quite a similar position, as I was **the** “go to” person when it comes to everything IT within the organization (SUIS), so I think this opportunity is perfectly tailored just for me. I am a passionate individual about web and IT technologies who always enjoy problem-solving and who's not afraid of daily challenges. I like to play a central, key essential role in an organization, I do want my role to matter and make a difference and I believe this is an excellent opportunity for me to fulfill this ambition.

As a life-long learner and a responsible, proactive person, most of the major IT innovations that took place during my time at SUIS were the result from my own initiatives in trying to improve something that either seemed inadequate, lacked some polish, or by simply trying to bring the organization to the next level and above the competition. One example of that is when I set up and introduced the Learning

Management System, and provided training to staff on how to use it. It wasn't something that had been specifically requested by anyone at first, but I knew it could make a huge difference in everyone's life and when staff learned about its existence and how to use it, they sure did benefit from this new way of interacting with children and parents, although they initially didn't even know they needed it! I could also have used other fine examples to illustrate this point, such as when I implemented a new email system, file server or when I introduced Drupal for our website, which allowed each campus to edit their own content by themselves. All very welcome improvements that came mostly from my own initiative.

I believe that this very opportunity requires someone with the same ability to find out what can be improved, who's able to bring efficient solutions as well as improvements to what is already in place. Being passionate about my field of expertise means that I naturally like to keep myself informed and updated about what are the industry's current best practices, as well as what are the upcoming and promising trends, which as a result allows me to evaluate and make the best technological decisions for the long term.

More recently, I have worked on projects that required me to specialize in responsive design and mobile-friendly HTML code as well as digging deeper inside the Wordpress codex, which I think gives me some extra bleeding-edge skills that are very much needed in this time and age. I believe that all of this, combined with my graphic design background and social media awareness, makes me the perfect candidate for this position. Not only I can take care of the very technical side of everything, but I can also bring a bilingual, esthetic and modern touch to the organization's interactions through social media, etc.