Simon van der Merwe

Pretoria, Gauteng
0184
South Africa
simonvdm132@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE

BBD, Johannesburg — BBD Vac Work

January 2025

I had the opportunity to take part in BBD's Vac Work programme, which took place during December and January. I joined the programme during January. Three teams were each given their own greenfield project - a full stack application using technologies such as React, Azure Functions and Nx. I contributed to all aspects of the project but focusing more on the front-end.

BBD, Johannesburg — BBD Vac Week

July 2024

BBD Vac Week took place during the midyear recess. We were tasked to create a web-based multiplayer mobile game within one week. Teams were created so that no two members would know each other, in order to get members out of their comfort zone and simulate a professional environment.

University of Pretoria, Pretoria — COS132 *Tutor*

Semester 1 2024

During the first semester of 2024, I tutored for the COS132 module. I learnt the importance of clear communication and improved my skills regarding the conveying of knowledge. This experience has helped me realise that students all have varying needs and that one must be able to adapt to those needs in order to give them the best learning outcome.

STRESSED STUDIOS, Remote — *General Programmer*

November 2021 - October 2022

I was approached by the startup game studio to work with other programmers and develop their first title. I worked in various areas including networking, core gameplay mechanics and procedural generation. Although the studio disbanded near the end of 2022, the experience taught me the importance of clear communication, resourcefulness, and focus. It also helped improve my leadership skills as I frequently found myself leading a small group of programmers to achieve our goals.

SKILLS

Communication

Problem solving

Writing

Adaptability

AWARDS

During high school I received an award for achieving the highest grade in Information Technology for my year group.

One of my essays has been chosen to be published in the POORT writing competition.

LANGUAGES

Afrikaans, English

Quant Solutions, Pretoria — *Shadowing*

January 19 2023

I was given the opportunity to shadow for a day at Quant Solutions. During the experience I learned how large teams seamlessly work together to accomplish a singular task. Problem solving and teamwork were the two skills that kept their operation running smoothly, and I aspire to work in a team similar to theirs.

EDUCATION

University of Pretoria, Pretoria — *BSc Computer Science*

2023 - Present

I am currently studying Computer Science (third year), and I am well on track to finish my degree with distinction. I hope to be given the opportunity to pursue a Masters degree.

Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool, Pretoria — *High school*

2018 - 2022

During high school I realized my passion for computers – especially on the software side. Information Technology soon became my favorite subject, and the one I excelled the most at. I participated in chess and also played clarinet in the school concert orchestra. I Matriculated with distinction in 2022.

PROJECTS

Metroponics — *Hydroponics Project*

In early 2023, three friends and I started work on an automated hydroponics system. We were each assigned to a certain aspect, and I was assigned to tower design, mobile and web app development using Flutter and the server backend using Python and Flask.

API calls are made from the app to the development board in order to retrieve information such as temperature and humidity, manage different systems and adjust settings.

I also set up and maintain the linux server we use to host the backend.

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Computer Related

In my free time I find myself taking apart and rebuilding old computers and seeing what I can get to run on them. I also run two small linux servers, on which I host self-made experiments and a number of other small services

such as web hosting, ad-blocking and photo backups.

Game development is my favorite pastime, and I have played with many different game engines and languages, of which my favorites include Bevy, Godot and MonoGame. It is my preferred way to learn a new language, as it makes learning more fun and rewarding.

Non-Computer Related

When I need to take a break from the digital world, you can find me working on restoring an old motorcycle. It's something different from what I usually do, so I find it a good way to unwind, and has the added benefit of teaching me mechanical skills.

During the week I relax by reading and writing, going to the gym and doing the weekly parkrun at the Pretoria National Botanical Garden.