

RICHARD GEORGE

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An experienced and broad-skilled Software Engineer, DevOps/Sysadmin and Team Manager, now moving towards iOS development and seeking a role with a multi-platform team. iOS apps (currently in beta) are available via TestFlight or can be demonstrated.

Key Skills

- Full software lifecycle development, from project planning to automated test and release
- Development and training of teams in technical skills and agile techniques
- Individual and team-based development of reliable, high-quality web applications
- Unix server, database and network administration and monitoring
- Distributed & centralised version control systems, issue tracking and continuous integration
- Broad technical experience ranging from embedded hardware to cloud deployments
- Fluent French and German, native English, basic Japanese and Spanish

Key Technologies (> 5 years experience)

- Object-oriented development, Linux administration, PHP, MySQL, Apache

Recent Activity

November 2011 to present

Study break focussed on iOS development

- Brief investigations into Python & Django for server backends
- Studied at the iPhone Boot Camp course
- Currently have 2 apps under development (excluding trivial/ “fun”) apps, to be released on the iTunes App Store in due course; currently being beta-tested via TestFlight
- Use of Unit Testing, Core Data and Appledoc.

Career

Senior Roles

January 2010 to October 2011

Technical Architect

October 2007 to December 2009

Technical Manager

Dennis Publishing, London W1

Responsible for team management, modernisation of codebase and development techniques

- Introduced management and teams to modern development and release strategies, centralised & distributed version control systems and individual sandboxed development
- Introduced continuous integration and automated regression tools on all code
- Led development of flexible, library-based MVC / Object Oriented framework with Zend Framework and Smarty front end
- Migrated multi-site codebase from live-only environment to managed in-house sandboxes

- Introduced and administered internal, co-located, cloud and local virtual servers
- Negotiated internal concerns over technologies, coding practices and platform with developers and managers from various backgrounds and of various skills
- Performed all DevOps / Sysadmin tasks before hiring a full-time colleague to this role
- Helped specify and deploy co-located and cloud server clusters
- Led implementation of monitoring tools to catch server or code faults fast and early
- Developed policies for server upgrades and outages, and recovery strategies
- Introduced team bug tracking tool, wiki and web-based repository management
- Developed tools for database schema, data and procedure management and versioning
- Created processes & recipes (Jenkins / Fabric) for automated deployment and testing
- Performed audit and optimisation of codebase for stability and ease of development
- Designed and developed data import, cleanup and filtering tools for legacy in-house and modern third-party datastores
- Developed sites & profiles in Drupal 6 & 7
- Creation of drush make scripts, including auxiliary tools & patches to drush make

November 2005 to October 2007

Technology Manager

The Mind Gym, London W8

Responsible for technical delivery of all internal and external web sites and applications

- Managed provision and specification of all IT infrastructure through contracted supplier
- Scoped and hired whole technology team including interviewing and cross-training
- Introduced code documentation, unit testing and continuous integration
- Management of technical team and all projects; introduction of “Scrum” methodology
- Provided full-spectrum helpdesk and technical assistance to all staff
- Project scoping and planning of new CMS, sites and CRM application
- Led migration of all code to strict standards, fully Object-Oriented PHP5 and MySQL5
- Participated in creation of short- and long-term company strategy and goals
- Helped to create a working environment that the team considered to be “the best place they’ve ever worked”

Freelance Roles

December 2004 to November 2005 **Sysadmin, PHP, HTML and CSS Developer**

Clients including The Mind Gym, Poke, Agency.com, Grand Union, Start Creative

- Designed and developed client websites and mail distribution tools
- Specified and administered Linux servers & Mac / Windows desktops
- Introduced and supported Subversion version control software and clients

Permanent Roles

June 2004 to September 2004

Web Developer and Server Administrator

Start Creative Limited, London W1

- Developed and designed client websites with CSS, HTML, JavaScript
- Developed back end websites and systems with ASP, PHP, MySQL, MSSQL
- Managed and administered legacy Cobalt RAQ Linux servers

September 2002 to June 2004 **Web Developer and Server Administrator**
Unity / The Facilities Group / Saatchi & Saatchi X, Cambridgeshire and London W1

- Designed and developed applications & HTML emails for various clients
- Monitored and managed web servers and email systems

March 2001 to July 2002 **Software Engineer**
Pace Micro Technology plc, Cambridge

- Developed system software on Linux and RISCOS set-top boxes

September 1999 to March 2001 **Graduate Engineer**
Snell & Wilcox, Havant, Hampshire

- Worked as lead programmer in embedded C on video encoding and processing hardware

University Work and Placements

January 1999 to June 1999 **Work Placement**
Institut National de l'Audiovisuel, Paris, France

- Software development in C++ under IRIX – international collaboration project

Summers 1996 to 1998 **Sponsored Work**
Snell & Wilcox, Hampshire

- Embedded software development for MPEG, schematics entry, support tools

Education

Degree 1994 to 1999

ESIEE Paris, France 1998-9

Universität Karlsruhe, Germany 1997-8

University of Southampton, UK 1994-7

Master of Electronic Engineering with Tripartite Diploma (Graduated with Merit)

Technologies

Development

PHP, C, C++, Perl, Python, Objective C, Linux shell scripting, SQL, (X)HTML, XML, CSS, JavaScript, AJAX, Unit Testing / Test Driven Development

Software

Apache, MySQL, Postgres, BIND, Exim, Samba, CVS, Subversion, Mercurial, Git, Trac, FogBugz, Kiln, Jenkins, Fabric, Puppet, Memcache, Squid, Varnish

Platforms

Windows since 3.1, Linux, Mac OSX, iOS, BSD, embedded systems, AWS cloud services, virtual machines & servers

Personal and Technical Summary

I've been working in software development for 12 years now, in a variety of (mostly C-based) languages. In addition to the languages I've used professionally, I also did some early work in Basic and Perl. Much as learning multiple spoken languages has given me a keener insight into how we communicate, I think familiarity with multiple development languages helps me take a wider and more versatile view of software development.

To this end, I've recently been taking a study break to increase the number of languages I'm familiar with. I've looked a little at Prolog, Lisp & Scala, a bit more at Ruby & Python, but mostly at Objective C. I started off with the "iPhone Boot Camp" course and I'm now working on my second useful iPhone app, and greatly enjoying it. I started my career in C, and while Objective C is reminding me of exactly what I enjoyed in lower-level coding in those days, the strong object-oriented skills I've learned in the meantime really boost what I can do with it.

However, as I've often worked in small teams (many of which I've subsequently grown), I've developed a number of supporting skills as well as pure development. My skills in server administration mean that as well as running and monitoring live servers, I can provide, support and teach a range of auxiliary tools such as version control, test, deployment and continuous integration, and virtual servers.

I've also looked to help share these and other skills within the development community; I was on the committee of PHP London for a while, and shared various technical writing both on my blog (<http://phase.org>) and in a dedicated series on test-driven development (<http://tdd-deciphered.com>).

As much as I enjoy working with technology, I still prefer not to spend all of my time in front of a computer! My most active hobby at the moment is kayaking - I'm currently working on the BCU 2 star syllabus - and I'm a joint organiser of a group that's walking the Thames Path in segments. I'm also a keen gym-goer and practice Pilates on a regular basis, and cycling and indoor climbing less frequently. Additionally, I've been a qualified First Aider for 5 years, and CPR-trained before that.

Less energetically, I've recently picked up my study of languages with a couple of years of Japanese at SOAS, which supports my interest in Japanese anime and manga, revealing whole new aspects of the books and films. Prior to that, I volunteered for a while at Bletchley Park as a steward and machine demonstrator, an extension of my ongoing interest in history, and a fascinating chance to support the site and help share its story.

In both my hobbies and my work, I like to balance new challenges with my existing skills. It's for that reason that I'm currently taking the time out to study and to consolidate what I've learned in the past. I'm quite proud of these various past achievements, most recently at Dennis where they were particularly appreciated by management (references are available). I'm looking forward to sharing this enthusiasm and experience in a new role, with all the new challenges, new technologies, and new colleagues that this would bring.