

Ben Speakman

ben@d-formed.net - <http://threesquared.net/>

Profile

I have just completed the fourth year of a BSc Software Engineering degree at the University of Brighton. I have a wide range of IT skills acquired from independent learning, formal education and a number of professional experiences including a year's placement as part of my course. My skill base includes several different programming languages and administration of both Windows and Unix/Linux systems, remotely and locally. I am good at communicating with both experienced IT professionals as well as novices and I feel I have a talent of explaining complicated computing processes in understandable terms. I can demonstrate I have worked well in a team and am confident in expressing my ideas whilst also listening to those of others. My objective is to find employment that will utilise my existing IT skills whilst also enabling me to develop further. I want to be challenged by further learning and experience in the industry as I find this is the best way for me to develop and extend myself.

Skills

- An extensive background in PHP and experience in Java, C++, Bash, TCL and Perl.
- Knowledge of object oriented principles and programming best practices
- Experience interfacing with API's including developing Facebook Apps
- Most experience in web based languages including strict standards compliant XHTML, CSS, JavaScript and AJAX including libraries like jQuery.
- Linux security, administration, networking, repair and use. Predominantly Debian based environments but have worked with SuSe and Redhat/CentOS distributions
- Advanced Windows security, administration, networking, repair and use. Including advanced Active Directory, Exchange and Domain administration
- SQL Database administration and manipulation (MySQL and SQL Server)
- Graphical web design (Photoshop and Imageready)
- PC and server hardware repair, replacement and maintenance
- Networking hardware i.e. firewalls, routers and switches. Experience with Cisco and BSD based systems (pfSense and m0n0wall)
- Server services, i.e. Apache, IIS, ProFTPD, glFTPd ircds and ssh servers etc
- Remote access, including VNC, SSH, telnet and RDP remote desktop
- Extensive experience in most version of the windows operating system. From Windows 3.11, 95, 98 and ME to Windows NT, XP, 2003, Vista and Windows 7
- Management of both remote and local Windows and Linux systems. Roles including: user management, networking, software installation/removal, security and mitigation of intrusion and denial of service attacks

Work Experience

Mio Technology – Service Delivery Engineer | July 2009 – August 2010

As part of my course I spent a year working in industry with Mio Technology, a major GPS manufacturer. My main role was user support and network administration. This gave me a wealth of experience in the Active Directory system and administration of Windows Domains and Exchange servers. I was quickly delegated many more responsibilities including the upkeep of multiple Windows 2003 servers and managing the backup systems. I also developed an intimate understanding of a commercial Windows environment including remote VPN access, DHCP, DNS and the management of live production servers. I was also responsible for maintaining the infrastructure of the building including UPS systems and the LAN network. I also provided front line support to user's on-site and remote support to regional users in countries across Europe. I encountered many different challenges and this really expanded my skill base. This responsibility made me confident in expressing myself in the workplace and really developed my problem solving skills.

Avanti Communications – Junior Web Developer | July – September 2008

I worked over the summer of my first year at university with Avanti Communications on the CTSP project, a website designed to sell satellite internet packages. This role involved working professionally in a team developing a website. It gave me a great opportunity to become accustomed to holding meetings, being involved in project planning and adhering to deadlines. It also gave me the experience I needed in areas such as working with SVN servers and IDE's like Eclipse. I also expanded my knowledge of JavaScript to become proficient in new technologies like AJAX and the jQuery libraries.

D-formed.net – PHP Developer/System Administrator | 2001 – Ongoing

This is a small company I own and operate with a friend. It provides web design services and hosting. We attract a small amount of business through online associates or word of mouth. I have learned extensively from this and it has really tested my PHP skills. I often have to write complete web applications from scratch such as CMS and blogging software. I have become skilled at web authoring and w3c web standards and XHTML. I also developed an experience in SQL databases from manipulation with PHP scripts to direct administration with PHPMyAdmin. The remote administration of the Debian Linux servers was a challenge and I have developed a keen understanding of the operating system and Unix-like operating systems as a whole. I am comfortable working in a command line environment on both Linux and Windows.

Nyras Capital and Teensandtoddlers.org – User Support | 2006 – Ongoing

These are small organizations based in London. I provide frontline technical support usually on the phone but also in person for their desktop computers. This has been instrumental in giving me the ability to communicate technical information and complex IT terminology to those without complex computing knowledge. It has also tested my knowledge of PC hardware maintenance and repair.

Education

University | September 2007 – June 2011

University Of Brighton - BSc Software Engineering

A level | September 2004 – July | LASWAP sixth form, Camden, London

Film Studies A2: **C**, Psychology A2: **E**

GCSE | September 2002 - July 2004 | St Christopher School, Letchworth, Herts

Art: **C**, Drama: **B**, ICT: **C**, Math's: **B**, English: **BB**, Science: **CC**, Geography: **B**

Interests

My major interest is in web based programming languages. I especially enjoy the problem solving aspect of writing and debugging code and this is my main hobby. I also find the ability to write my own programs and scripts an exceptionally useful tool in general computer maintenance and administration. My other interest is in sound engineering and I sometimes rent out a sound system I own with some friends to pubs, clubs and events. I really enjoy the technical aspect of sound manipulation with equalizers and crossovers and building and maintaining my speakers. This hobby lets me step away from the computer but keeps me interested by testing my technical skills and understanding of the physics of sound.

For examples of my work visit my online portfolio at <http://threesquared.net>

References - (Written reference available upon request)

Chris Durkin – Mio Technology, Chris.Durkin@mio.com

Gerard Armstrong – Avanti Communications, Gerard.Armstrong@avantiplc.com

Jennie Harding – City College Brighton and Hove, jha@ccb.ac.uk