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ALASTAIR DANT

SENIOR INTERACTIVE DEVELOPER

PROFILE

Skilled technologist with over 10 years digital experience, specialized in the development of rich internet applications and interactive news media. Confident architecting all aspects of software from database schemas to UI/UX. A keen communicator, happy building and mentoring teams or working alone under pressure. Certified Scrum Master, focused on project delivery.

PRIMARY SKILLS

- Languages - AS 1/2/3, C, Java, JavaScript, PHP, PL/SQL, Prolog, XSLT
- Libraries - Flex, Hibernate, JDK 3/4/5, JQuery, Papervision, Spring, Struts, Swing
- Media - Codecs, Custom audio / video players, Sound engineering, Streaming video
- Platforms - AIR, Eclipse, FMS, FP 8/9/10, JBoss, Resin, Smartfox, Tomcat
- Protocols - AMF, DNS, FTP, HTTP, IMAP, POP3, REST, RTMP, SOAP, SMTP, XML-RPC
- RDBMS - MySQL, Oracle 8i / 9i / 10g, Postgres, SQL Server
- Standards - CSS 3, EJB 3, JSON, HTML 3/4/5, RDF, XHTML, XML

EXPERIENCE

Agile, Scrum
Eclipse, Ant, SVN, Git
AS3, Flex, JavaScript
HTML5, JQuery
PureMVC, Robotlegs
Away3D, Box2D
GAE, EC2, Solr

Interactive Lead

Guardian News & Media, London

Permanent | Ongoing

Defined the interactive development strategy at an international media company with one of [the world's most popular news sites](#). Assembled and directed cross-functional project teams to deliver sophisticated pieces in response to key stories such as [the UK election](#), [World Cup](#) and [Afghan war logs](#). Invited to present this work at the BBC, speak at user groups and contribute to [prominent data visualization blogs](#). Envisaged and prototyped the company's first [Apple iPad app](#) (cited by Steve Jobs as a personal favourite). Architected an OSMF video player featuring OAS advertising and Omniture analytics integration. Evaluated the adoption of HTML5, building a series of innovative data visualizations to exemplify the pros and cons of working with the new technology. More interactive work can be seen at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/profile/alastair-dant>

Lead Developer

Mind Candy, London

Permanent | 2007-2008

Coordinated the development of [Moshi Monsters](#), an award-winning virtual world that enables kids to foster cartoon monsters with unique personalities. Built a team of Actionscript programmers and rapidly delivered a rich application using agile methodologies. Defined a scalable architecture that not only enabled the site to acquire half a million new users in 6 months but also made it possible to add features such as pre-moderated social networking, sub-applications like puzzles and mini-games, sophisticated asset and configuration management and a dynamic behavior engine with its own scripting language. Mind Candy's studio environment involved working alongside animators, illustrators and designers. Together, we overcame a series of architectural challenges to provide a rewarding visual experience without compromising performance.

Senior Java Consultant

IDBS, Guildford

Contract | 2005-2006

Helped develop [E-WorkBook](#) - ISO-9001 certified information management software from the team behind several industry-standard tools for research scientists. Worked with product managers, developers and QA testers to design and build a multithreaded Eclipse desktop application with J2EE back-end. Contributed to every layer of the stack from database schemas to custom Swing components. Built a SOAP data import API to satisfy a multi-million dollar integration contract with Pfizer. Collaborated with external consultants to prepare the application for 21 CFR / 11 validation. Created and maintained modules such as rich media search (with interactive query builder), a SVG sketching & annotation tool and an RDF-based system for managing controlled language.

PRINCE2, Scrum,
Eclipse, FDT, XRay,
Ant, SVN, Subversive,
AS2, Flex, Blaze DS,
CDN, Apache,
Tomcat, Memcache,
Struts, Spring,
Hibernate, Postgres.

ISO-9001,
Eclipse, IntelliJ IDEA,
Ant, SVN, Subclipse,
UML, JDK 5, Swing,
AWT, Multithreading,
SOAP, XFire, WSDL,
J2EE, JBoss, EJB 3,
Hibernate, Oracle 10.

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EXPERIENCE cont.

Agile, XP,
Maven, Javadoc, JUnit,
JDK 4, JSP, JSTL,
Apache, Tomcat,
Servlets, Struts, SOA,
XSLT, JAXP, JDOM,
PL/SQL, Oracle 9i.

Technical Lead

CSG, London

Permanent | 2003-2005

Assembled and directed a 15-strong team in the migration of [BioMedCentral](#) (publisher of over 150 open-access science journals) to a Java system based on SOA, Struts, JSP, Taglibs and Velocity. Defined working practices incorporating test-driven development, pair programming, code review and documentation. Created and tuned core libraries such as a thread-safe connection manager that enabled over 100 sites to connect to a single Oracle 9i cluster. Instigated a build system based upon Ant, Maven and Cruise Control that automated the majority of testing, integration and bug reporting procedures for over 20 interdependent Java projects. Wrote Eclipse plugin for config management.

Senior Developer

CSG, London

Permanent | 2001-2003

Visual Studio, VSS,
JDK 3, J++, JScript,
IIS 5, COM, ASP,
MSXML, XSD, XSLT,
DTD, XPath, ConText,
PL/SQL, Oracle 8.

Developed two major applications for [Current Controlled Trials](#). The mRCT required a suite of tools capable of aggregating and managing data from a wide variety of sources (including database dumps, CSV files, web services, and HTML spidering). The ISRCTN scheme required the design of a numeric identification system (similar to ISBN) and the creation of multi-page online forms for submitting new trial data. Built a search engine using Oracle technology and COM that enabled both sites to offer full-text querying of over 100,000 trial records. Wrote heavy-duty XML import routines in Java and PL/SQL to satisfy a yearly contract with the NHS that provided the majority of the project's income.

Systems Developer

Property Internet, London

Permanent | 2000-2001

Visual Studio, VSS,
VB, VBScript, JScript,
IIS 5, COM, ASP,
HTML, CSS, JS,
SQL Server.

Developed core systems for 08004homes.com, a UK property portal with over 5 million pounds investment. Created a searchable index of property data from more than 100 different import sources. Built a CMS that allowed the authoring and management of news stories and other editorial content. Wrote a syndication engine to provide 3rd parties news in formats such as Pointcast, RSS, WML. Outsourcing deals meant regular travel to coordinate 3rd party developers in London, Switzerland & Croatia.

Systems Manager

Datapaq, Cambridge

Permanent | 1998-2000

NT 4, Exchange,
NetBios, SMB, TCP/IP,
SalesLogix, ACT,
VB, VBA, Delphi,
Access, SQL Server,
Crystal Reports.

Developed & administered IT systems for [an industry leading temperature-profiling manufacturer](#) with offices in Germany, China and the USA. Established a multi-domain NT network that provided file-sharing, authentication, and email services across all sites. Travelled internationally to set up and deploy a large CRM that synchronized data from their UK headquarters to 3 remote offices and over 20 sales reps. Migrated legacy systems for invoice tracking and inventory management to custom applications built in VBA, Access and SQL Server. Created extensive sales and marketing reports in Crystal.

OTHER PROJECTS

ActionScript 2,
MX Components,
Maps, Geodata, I18n,
PHP 4/5, REST,
Apache, MySQL.

Joint Founder

Folk Songs Project

2005-2007

Collaborated with a producer and a designer to explore themes of cultural identity and urban flow. Projects included building [interactive sound maps](#) in New York and beyond, a Portuguese [concert tour](#) that combined local sounds with improvised music and a commission from Manchester International Festival to build [an audio-visual installation](#) which placed the sounds and voices of marginalized wards at the heart of the city centre. This work featured in TimeOut New York, the Guardian newspaper and several BBC Radio broadcasts as well as being mentioned in blogs across the internet.

EDUCATION

BSc, Cognitive Science (Computer Science, Psychology, Linguistics)

UCL | 1998