

BEN ROBERTS

'Highly motivated and detail oriented web developer with Linux system administration, technical writing and software testing experience who thrives on challenge, responsibility and the pursuit of knowledge. A native (British) English speaker, with over four years working in web development, I would now like to offer my skills and experience with a view to finding an exciting and challenging position within a well-established Prague-based web development company.

PERSONAL INFO							
Nationality	British	Address	Radhoštská 1770/21, 130 00 PRAHA 3	Email	ben@xoundesign.com	Mobile	775 713 373
WORK EXPERIENCE							
PHP/Javascript Developer (TimeMaker, Prague 3) Aug10 – present	Since the beginning of August 2010 I have been working as part of the TimeMaker development team building software components using mainly Javascript with the JQuery framework and PHP / MySQL on the backend. The project I have been assigned is a universal graphing control that is fully componentized and built as a jQuery plug-in . Responsibilities include working on the business analysis and architecture of the software as well as writing the System Description Document and carefully planning the work in advance in order to deliver to exact deadlines. The development of testing tools and full documentation for both managers and integrators is also required of me in this role.						
Freelance Web Developer (Prague) Jun 07 – Jun 08 & May 09 – present	Self-employed web developer from my own office working mainly on behalf of Prague-based businesses and organizations developing custom scripts and web applications, content management systems and their extensions. As a web application designer I have to be proficient in a broad range of skill areas from the hardware build and installation, Windows Server2003 platform and Linux server administration and BASH shell scripting through to advanced MySQL database design and scripting, application layer scripting on the server, AJAX and DOM scripting as well as layout design and the creation of graphics . A large part of the work I have been involved in has involved virtualization using both VMware and MS Virtual Server platforms. With the advent of cloud computing I have invested much of my time into furthering my knowledge of the underlying form of this technology both as a user and administrator Wherever possible the code I write is object-oriented and I am able to work equally well in both PHP and CFML for the server-side and jQuery / Javascript for the client side. (Online portfolio: http://xoundesign.com/portfolio.html) A keen advocate of ' Usability ', I enjoy designing and building interfaces that are easy to use and wherever possible, self-explanatory. I extend this philosophy to the documentation that I write too. Being a self-taught web-developer I have had to read a vast amount of technical information from a lot of different sources and have developed strong opinions about how documentation should be structured and presented. When I get time I like to blog , publishing detailed "how to's" describing solutions I've labored over where no-one else appears to have blogged before. (Blog: http://blog.xoundboy.com)						
Test Engineer (Sitronics TS) Jan 09 – May 09	Responsible for the functional testing of the Microsoft Dynamics CRM and the FORIS Ordering component customizations used in the FORIS NG billing solution running on Server2003 / Oracle / MSSQL platforms supported by Tibco logging components. Duties included analyzing programming structures and business rules, designing and running test cases against both test and development platforms, filing bug reports and working alongside developers to resolve issues when required. This challenging post that involved a lot of interesting research unfortunately came to a premature end when the company laid-off nearly half of its staff in a single day, my entire team included.						
Technical Writer (Sitronics TS) Jun 08 – Jan 09	I worked as a member of the FORIS documentation team at Sitronics Telecommunication Systems (formerly Strom Telecom), a company that develops both hardware and software infrastructure for telecoms systems . After rigorous initial training, I was handed responsibility for updating and adding new material to an existing documentation set consisting of both 'administrator' and 'user' guides for several of the core components of the FORIS NG billing system. Apart from working side by side with the C#.NET developers to create these guides, my other main role was as administrator for the FORIS Wiki where I maintained a large Wiki describing the APIs used in the product. On several occasions I was required to use my PHP skills to customize the MediaWiki source code to suit the development team's needs.						

Web Development Jul 06 – Jun 07	During a mid-career ‘year-off’ whilst travelling around South America with a laptop I decided that I needed to cease working in the music industry and do something completely different. Choosing web development I decided to learn HTML / CSS / ColdFusion / MySQL and as a vehicle for my studies I built a database-driven website (http://www.xoundboy.com) intended to showcase the recordings that I created during my 10+ year career in sound and music production.
Sound Engineer / Project Manager Gorse Hill Studios (Trafford MBC, UK) Jun 00 – Apr 06	Working in the multi-disciplinary role of studio manager / music producer / sound engineer / youth worker, I led the Gorse Hill Studios project from its creation to a point where it was a nationally-recognized service employing five members of staff delivering high quality studio production to the young people of Trafford and Manchester. Duties and responsibilities included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation of business strategy • Liaison with funders, preparation and submission of funding proposals • Recruitment / management of staff team • Production and release of professionally manufactured compilation CDs • Organization of showcase events • Liaison with local authority departments • Technical / operational management including maintenance / repair of hardware and software • Ensuring the effective delivery and monitoring of all sessions • Production of studio’s website (http://www.gorsehillstudios.com) • Training of staff
Freelance Sound Engineer (UK) 1993 - 2000	Soundtrack Composition ~ soundtracks for several successful large-scale public site-specific events and fire shows by <i>Walk the Plank Pyrotechnics</i> , including the world-renowned “ <i>Tower of Light</i> ” Live Sound Engineering ~ from building a 10kW rig to FOH mixing bands at all-day festivals and operating playback, fold back and gaffering sound crews. Studio Production / Sound Design ~ recorded and produced local songwriters, artists and soundtracks. Stage / Production Management ~ produced and toured world-wide with the David Glass Ensemble, an internationally acclaimed physical theatre company. Countries visited include Bosnia, Colombia, India, Croatia and Italy. Led Stagecraft workshops with street-children in Bogota, Colombia. Equipment Installation / Maintenance ~ mainly sound, lighting, video and computer networking equipment into clubs, churches, arenas, Exhibitions and recording studios. Was commissioned to design and install Gorse Hill Studios by Trafford MBC Youth Service who then offered me the job of running their youth music project.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

June 08 – Sept 08	Technical writing training	Sitronics, Prague
July 07 - present	Czech language – upper intermediate	Czech Language Training, Prague
Aug 06 – present	Web Development Technologies	Intensive Self-Study
Oct 06 – Dec 06	Spanish language – basic level	Australian Consulate, Bogotá, Colombia
June 1994	RSA / Cambridge TEFL Certificate	Leeds Metropolitan University, UK
1989 - 1992	BSc (Hons) III Management Studies / Operational Research	The University of Leeds, UK
1978 - 1988	A-levels – Economics, Maths, Physics + 9 O-levels	Nottingham High School, UK

SKILLS

Scripting Languages / Frameworks	Javascript / jQuery, PHP, CFML, MySQL, CSS, Ajax, X/HTML, Unix/BASH, Joomla! framework & extensions, Wordpress extensions, Actionscript3, MediaWiki
Management	Project management, Preparation of project proposals and funding applications, Team leadership, Recruitment, Staff development, Production / stage / event management, MS Project
OS	Linux (CentOS), Windows Sever2003, XP Pro / Vista / 7, Mac OS X
IDE	Notepad++ / Total Commander/SVN, Eclipse, Dreamweaver, Visual Studio, Navicat, Firefox (+ Web Developer & Firebug plug-ins), Adobe Flash CS4,Photoshop, Fireworks
Server Technologies	Centos 4+, Apache 2.2, Samba, OpenVPN,VsFTP, CF7/CF8, Bluedragon Server JX, OpenBD, MySQL 4/5, Samba, OpenSSH, Tomcat
Office / Publishing / Authoring	Word, Excel, Access, Visio, Sharepoint, Madcap Flare
Spoken Languages	English (native), French (fluent), Czech (upper intermediate), German (basic) , Spanish (basic),
Other	Recording studio design / installation, Lighting, carpentry, Electrics, Electronics, Driving license, First aid