Owen Garland

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After taking some time out to travel around America and Europe, I am now looking for an opportunity to start a new chapter in my life in Sweden. Keen to bring my technical skills to a new industry, I am particularly interested in decentralised applications, financial markets and turning big data into useful data.

Areas of technical expertise

- Strong advocate for Agile and XP Practices
- Believer and contributor to open source projects
- Developing applications in Python and Node.js
- Setting up and administering SQL and NoSQL servers
- High level of Linux and git proficiency
- Experience with virtualisation (LXC, Docker) and server management software (ansible)
- Varnish cache, SSL & domain management

Personal projects

- Overall winner of BBC News Hack Wales 2015
- *It's back* - Written in Node.js, this is a website that alerts users in real time when a site comes back up after being offline.
- *Daily Mail Bot* - Protest bot written in Python, that mirrors Daily Mail & Sun articles posted to reddit.
- *Process Game* - A small C game I made as a learning exercise. Find a way to kill the game without it knowing.
- *OandXs* - Noughts and crosses in a recursive manner, so that the game can be played multiple layers deep.

Backend Engineer - *June 2017 - December 2017*

SpotMe SA - Lausanne, Switzerland

SpotMe develops mobile and web apps for clients running events, that can be customised and modified across all platforms from one backend interface. Whilst working here I have been responsible for maintaining their behind the scenes services that enable this functionality, and updating them to use the latest technologies.

- Profiled the Node.js backend and improved performance by a factor of ten
- Designed and implemented an image processing and uploading framework
- Modernising the platform and introducing more agile procedures

Final Year Project - *January 2017 - June 2017*

Aberystwyth University

For my undergraduate dissertation, I developed a fully featured web service that would enable researchers to browse and search through the annotated sequence data for three different yeasts that they were studying. During this project I had to investigate the data and learn how to manipulate and annotate it, to be of value to the researchers; as the data I was provided with was not documented. Unlike existing genome viewers, my solution explored the feasibility of utilising NoSQL databases, as well as focussing greatly on modern software development techniques such as test driven development and continuous integration.

You are welcome to view the dissertation and demo website as well as look at the code on my Github profile.

Software Developer - *July 2015 - June 2016*

Clock Limited - Watford, England

As part of my degree I spent an industrial year working full time at Clock, a Node.js agency in Hertfordshire. Whilst there I had several roles throughout the year, including running their support service (bug fixes), developing new features for existing

projects and being trained by the Technical Services team to learn how to manage the infrastructure of a web agency.

- Developing Node.js & MongoDB applications
- Working with large existing code bases
- Customer communications
- Agile and XP practices
- Managing physical and virtual servers with ansible
- Server provisioning and maintenance
- DNS, Domains and SSL
- Updating legacy PHP projects

Bioinformatics Assistant - *August 2014 - October 2014*

Institute for Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences,

Aberystwyth University

This position was my first real introduction to bioinformatics and I have learned a substantial amount about many areas of computing I wouldn't normally have been exposed to. For example I had access to a powerful cluster and had to deal with large amounts of genomic data.

- Compiling and installing open source genomics applications
- Utilising a cluster to run genome assemblies
- Python scripting to automate tasks

Qualifications

2017 - BEng in Software Engineering with First Class Honours

2013 - Distinction* Level 3 Extended BTEC Diploma in Computing

2010 - Nine grade A GCSEs including English, Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology

Interests

Aside from computing my main passion in life is swing dancing and traditional jazz. I have been teaching dance classes back in the UK and spent several summers helping to run the largest Swing Dance festival in the world in Herräng, Sweden. Prior to university I was also volunteering at The National Museum of Computing in Bletchley park and running development Centres for Young Rewired State.

Referees

Dr Amanda Clare - *Senior Lecturer*

Department of Computer Science, Llandinam Building, Aberystwyth, SY23 3DB

afc@aber.ac.uk

John Zetterström *Formerly Platform Lead - SpotMe*

John was my manager while I worked at SpotMe, however he has since left. He can still be contacted for reference.

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