James Beach

me@jbeach.xyz - 07783322217
1 Cottrell Road, Eastville, Bristol, BS5 6TH

Personal Statement

I like to believe that I bring a positive spin on the day to day happenings, with the ability to bridge communication between people with different skill sets and different viewpoints.
I consider myself a productive person who's always up for a challenge, and enjoy working on projects where I'm able to learn and improve my skill set along the way.

I enjoy keeping myself busy through hobbies, from juggling to playing the guitar, I'm always ready to jump headfirst into learning something, whilst adapting to new situations

This gives me a very familiar understanding of the web, software, and how they work together to produce something suitable for an end-user. From human computer interaction, semantics for organizing data, to actual, practical functionality.
I especially have a passion for front-end development and usability.

I have been interested in computers since a young age, as a teenager I made freeware games, a few of which had limited success, eventually this grew into a passion for the web and related technology, which is what led me into this field, one which I feel confident in my skills and ability.

Whilst I can be technical minded, I also have a keen eye for design, and take extra pride in adding additional polish to my projects.

Core Skills

Web Design:

Front-end: HTML5, PUG, CSS3, SASS, LESS, JavaScript, jQuery, Responsive Design, Graphic Design, Grid Systems, UX design and implementation. Mobile friendly designs and cross-compatibility focus.

Back-end: Novice, but keen to learn and work well alongside back-end developers

Server Administration: I have experience administering dedicated and cloud based servers and systems. Experience setting up, configuring and maintaining CentOS/Debian servers remotely. Cloud computing. Nginx, Apache. Comfortable with any XAMP stack. I run several online game servers which typically sees about 40 unique users a week, which has contributed to my improved efficiency in administering servers.

General: Semantic Web, User Experience Design (UX), Usability and accessibility. Git, SSH, SEO, agile development, issue tracking via systems such as JIRA. and deployment through systems such as GIT.

I can navigate Google and Stackoverflow in order to overcome and solve problems.

Software:
      Adobe Creative Suite: Photoshop, Flash, Dreamweaver.
      General: Windows/Unix (Ubuntu, CentOS, Mac) , various text editors/IDEs, Microsoft Office.

Education

2018: City & Guilds Business Admin Level 3
2015: Diploma of Higher Education in Web Development with Distinction.
2012-2014: University of West England (UWE) - *BSc Web Design (Sandwich course)*
      Year one: 73% Overall Average
      Year two: 70% Overall
      Nominated for undergraduate intern of the year, 2013-2014.
2009: Cornwall College St Austell
      BTEC National Diploma in Web Media: Distinction*
2006: Port Shepstone College - South Africa
      Matriculation (Equiv: 6 AS Levels)

Employment

Crystalface/Ultrasound BabyFace (2016-Present)
https://www.crystalface.co.uk/
http://ultrasoundbabyface.com/
I'm currently employed with Crystalface, which is a local E-commerce business within Bristol. There are 2 sides to the business.
One part of the business sells novelty keepsakes, while the other side of the business is a private ultrasound clinic.

I was an integral part of redesigning and developing the front end for a new website for Crystalface, which required many bespoke features.

For the past 2 years, I have been developing, improving and managing the company's websites, which has involved everything from Front-end development, graphic design, to managing analytics and the stability of the website - which has been insightful and given me knowledge on how an E-commerce website is run once the initial design/development process has been completed.

I have also done plenty of miscellaneous IT, graphic design, branding and marketing work for the company, which has improved the overall depth of my skill set, whilst also giving me experience in managing projects and understanding a business' needs.

Strategycom, Bristol (2013-2015)
www.strategycom.co.uk/
My employment began as a summer internship, leading onto web design contracting, and

eventually leading to a 12 month employment contract.

This opened doors for me which I couldn't have imagined years beforehand, regarding online services, systems and products. Despite starting out with passion for design, which I still hold, it was system and server administration which I begun to feel most comfortable with.

Through this employment, I worked on contracts for the Bristol LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership), teaching me invaluable insight into how enterprises in Bristol were run.

The private sector of the NHS, notably, the Imperial College NHS trust, involving many London hospitals and their Occupational Health programme: Imperial Health at Work - I was a core part of the development team which created a system for:

- Charing Cross Hospital
- Hammersmith Hospital
- Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea Hospital
- St Mary's Hospital
- Western Eye Hospital

In miscellaneous work, I did front-end design for various e-commerce businesses, local enterprises, and a fair bit of work for contracts related to HE/FE - higher/further education.

An example of a project I was heavily involved with is:

http://www.skillsjunction.co.uk/

Alongside this, I helped design an interface and system used by

http://www.workingknowledge.org.uk/

This software is now used by colleges across the UK, to assist Working Knowledges' administerial duties, which involve encouraging students in college to come up with business ideas, how to pitch them, as well as helping them get good employment & internships straight out of college. College students across the country are now using this system, and is a project I'm proud to have been associated with.

On the E-commerce side, I developed the website for Rossiters of Bath:

http://www.rossitersofbath.com/

Amongst other projects, I was a designer & developer for:

Bourchier - http://www.bourchier.org/ - A small company whose focus is to translate publications into various languages, currently making a lot of progress in the Middle-eastern market.

Winford Manor - http://www.winfordmanor.co.uk/

With more minor contributions to:

http://www.ldpa.co.uk/

http://www.w12conferences.co.uk/

Baileys' Balloons. A Bristolian hot-air balloon company.

Personal Interests.

I enjoy cycling, gaming, technology, gadgets, swimming and juggling, playing acoustic guitar, and keeping up to date with the happenings of the world.

Learning new skills is something I try to do as often as possible, as I believe it keeps the brain healthy.

References:
Further references can be found via my LinkedIn page.