ALASTAIR PHARO

Curriculum Vitae

5 August 2019

Technical Skills and Knowledge

▷ Accomplished full stack developer, proficient in both front-end and server-side development. I have experience working on Rails monoliths, as well as microservices using frameworks such as Express or Sinatra.

▷ Professional experience in a number of recent (and not so recent) JavaScript frontend frameworks including Svelte, Angular and Knockout. I am also comfortable working with Vanilla JS.

▷ Well acquainted with server-side maintenance tasks including running NGINX, Bash scripting, writing Systemd units and managing cron jobs. High level of familiarity with Linux.

▷ Well-versed in modern and emerging HTML5 and CSS functionality, including Web Components and media queries (responsive design). Familiar with CSS frameworks including Bootstrap, Foundation and Bulma.

▷ Proficient in the design, creation and querying of relational database schemas using database engines such as MySQL, PostgreSQL and SQLite. Experience with NoSQL databases including CouchDB, MongoDB and Redis.

▷ Confident using Node.js tooling such as Gulp, Babel, Rollup and Sass for compiling and optimising frontend apps.

▷ I have wholeheartedly embraced test-driven development (TDD) and automated code linting. My preferred tools are RSpec and RuboCop in Ruby; and Mocha and ESLint in JavaScript. I also have some experience creating and running acceptance tests using browser automation frameworks such as Behat and Capybara.

▷ Experience writing CPU-intensive numerical analysis software for solving complex mathematical problems. I also have experience creating numerical and cartographic data visualisations for the web using D3.

▷ I have varying levels of experience in a number of other languages including PHP, Perl, Python, Java, C/C++ and MATLAB. I am currently learning Elixir.

▷ Familiar with most modern version control systems, Git in particular.

▷ Proficient in the use of the LaTeX type-setting language for writing technical documentation and academic material.

Work Experience

Freelance Web Developer
Melbourne, AU
2013-2019

▷ Full stack developer of web applications for a small number of clients.

▷ Worked on a variety of different projects including e-commerce applications and intranet sites. These varied in size from microservices to large monoliths.

▷ Each project naturally presented its own challenges. Providing suitable solutions meant establishing clear understandings of clients' business needs.

▷ I prided myself on maintaining a high level of responsiveness and accountability to my clients at all times.

Research Assistant
School of Economics and Finance
Victoria University of Wellington, NZ
2010-2015 (casual/intermittent)

▷ Research into the applications of a branch of mathematics (Viability Theory) to models of economic management and environmental sustainability.

▷ Our research involved the development of software for undertaking numerical analysis, using this software to solve modelling problems, and publishing our findings.

▷ I was in charge of the MATLAB codebase and accompanying documentation. I also assisted with analysis of findings and wrote relevant sections of academic papers.

▷ This software has been instrumental to a number of academic outputs, including journal articles, book chapters and graduate research.

Senior Developer
Epoch Labs
Melbourne, AU
2011-2013

▷ Lead developer for a small software consulting firm, working predominantly with Drupal web applications.

▷ In this role I was responsible for liaising with clients, orchestrating project work, and for mentoring junior developers and helping to manage their workloads.

Software Developer
Geeks on Wheels
Wellington, NZ
2007-2011 (intermittent)

▷ Part-time web development work while studying.

▷ Developed and maintained a PHP web application used internally for business organisation and communications.

▷ Worked independently with little supervision.

Software Developer

Catalyst IT Ltd.
Wellington, NZ
2006-2007

▷ Member of a development team with a strong focus on e-learning.

▷ Worked as part of a team with clearly delineated responsibilities.

▷ Made use of open source projects such as Moodle.

▷ Wrote and maintained web applications written in PHP and Perl.

Software Developer

Apple Web Services Ltd.
Wellington, NZ
2005-2006

▷ Sole PHP developer for a small web contracting business.

▷ Regularly liaised with customers to understand their requirements.

Education

Bachelor of Commerce and Administration (BCA)

with First Class Honours
in Economics
Victoria University of Wellington, NZ
2009-2010

▷ Studies and research in the fields of macro-/micro-economics, dynamic processes, economic history and behavioural economics.

▷ My achievement in this programme lead to my engagement as a research assistant from 2010-2015 (see above).

Bachelor of Arts (BA)

with First Class Honours
in English Literature
Victoria University of Wellington, NZ
2003-2005; 2007

▷ My achievement in this discipline, as evidenced by my first-class result, shows my ability to assess and critique issues in clear, concise and intelligible terms; and to provide in-depth, balanced and well-reasoned analysis.

Bachelor of Science (BSc)

in Computer Science
and Mathematics
Victoria University of Wellington, NZ
2000-2003

▷ Studied software engineering principles and design and implementation of applications and databases, as well as branches of mathematics such as logic and algebra.

▷ Practical experience working with a variety of different programming languages, including Java and C/C++.

▷ This qualification provided me with the foundational skills which have enabled me to become a professional software developer.

Volunteer Positions

Board Member

Fitzroy Learning Network
Melbourne, AU
2015-present

▷ Fitzroy Learning Network a small organisation which provides adult education services to refugees and other recent migrants.

▷ As a member of the board, I am jointly responsible with fellow members for the management and strategic direction of the organisation.

▷ I also serve on sub-committees which oversee the organisation's financial management, staffing, policy development and regulatory compliance.

▷ I served as secretary from 2016-2018, during which time I was responsible for organising board meetings, minute-taking and document management. I am currently serving as acting secretary.

ESOL Tutor

English Language Partners
Wellington, NZ
2010-2011

▷ Met weekly with an adult English learner for one-on-one spoken and written language practice.

▷ This was a wonderful opportunity for me also to learn from someone whose background and culture was different from my own.

Volunteer Support Worker

Refugee Services
Wellington, NZ
Jun-Dec 2007

▷ Worked in a small team assisting a newly arrived refugee couple to access basic services, such as banking and social security.

▷ Served as a reliable point of contact, a friend, and as a go-to for when the family had questions about their new home.

References

Referee contact details available on request.