Mark Skeet

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Summary

Mark is an experienced web development delivery manager looking for a new challenge. A hard working and committed individual with good inter-personal skills who works well both within a team and under his own supervision. Mark has the ability to quickly master new skills and technologies. Mark has over two decades of full lifecycle development experience under his belt and is adept at working to deadlines.

Away from the world of IT, Mark enjoys F1, photography and walking in the wilds of Wester Ross, Scotland. Mark is able to travel for assignments and holds a full, clean driving licence.

Work experience

February 2018 – present: Delivery Manager/Lead Developer for Smart Insights

Mark has been responsible for the development and uptime of the various technical platforms that power the Smart Insights learning experience. Running a multi-talented delivery team with two line reports, Mark reports into the company CEO and is a member of the senior management team.

Mark has delivered a 30% improvement in load times, tightened security of the platform and introduced agile delivery of projects. In addition, he has overseen major migrations of hosting and payment providers.

Mark's key responsibilities include the mentoring of line reports, defining, allocating and project managing work for the team and liaising with other stakeholders to ensure new features and improvements are delivered as needed.

Technical skills utilised
- PHP 7 & MySQL 5
- HTML5 and CSS3/SASS
- JavaScript – jQuery & Vue.js
- WordPress development, customisation and optimisation
- Various RESTful APIs for payment and data transfer
- Git and Gulp

Other skills utilised
- Technical recruitment
- Line Management – performance reviews, mentoring
- Consultancy – user/UX workshops and resulting documentation
- Project Management

June 2015 – December 2017: Freelance Contractor

Oct 2015 – Dec 2017 Contract WordPress/PHP Developer at Department for Work & Pensions

Supporting and refactoring numerous projects from classic ASP into WordPress/PHP. Crafting of style templates to mirror GDS Design Manual principles.

Refactored Cold weather Payments and Pension Credit Calculator into GDS style and utilising PHP7 for performance improvements. Large scale movement of Sorting out Separation to new hosting along with creation of replacement next steps multi-step branched logic diagnostic tool in WordPress.

Involved in agile practices and user workshops as part of system requirement definition and delivery management.

In the final months of this contract Mark has mentored an internal junior developer bringing his skill set to the level needed for ongoing service provision required by the department.

June 2015 to Oct 2015 – Contract Front End Developer at G2G3 Digital
Implementing new features and retroactively fixing visual layout issues across mobile and IE for a number of high traffic websites. Utilising SASS based CSS and command line build tools. Also crafted a boilerplate front end scaffolding set up with Node and Gulp.

Main projects were all delivered utilizing agile methodology which included sprint planning, daily stand ups and scrums. Jira and Confluence utilized for project tracking and information sharing.

Technical skills utilised
- HTML5 and CSS3
- JavaScript - jQuery
- Gulp & Node for build system scaffolding template
- Jira/Confluence

May 2013 – June 2016: Freelance Technical Interviewer for Aquent

Mark has conducted technical vetting interviews for Aquent a global recruitment consultancy. He utilizes his skills and experience as a developer to assess the capabilities of front end developer candidates as part of Aquent's hiring process. In the 2 years he has been doing this he has, thus far, successfully conducted more than 400 interviews.

May 2013 – May 2015: Lead Developer/Head of Technical Services, First 10 Digital Limited

Mark acted as Lead Developer and was then promoted within 9 months to Head of Technical Services at this fast-paced Leeds-based digital marketing agency. During this period Mark recruited and oversaw a team of 6 designers and developers. The team maintained and created many highly customised WordPress applications. In 2014 the team contributed 40% of the company's revenues.

Aside from line management responsibilities, Mark was mandated with providing solutions architecture, UX workshops and subsequent proposal/wireframe creation. He then project managed each build often owning much of the technical communications with client project sponsors. Worked with a number of clients in an agile manner for project delivery, including sprint planning, scrums, daily stand ups etc.

Mark was part of the company's management team which was a collaborative way of running the company, ironing out issues and ensuring strong strategic growth.

Technical skills utilised
- PHP 5 & MySQL 5
- HTML5 and CSS3
- JavaScript - jQuery
- WordPress and WooCommerce customisation via custom plugins and custom post types
- VCS - Git

Other skills utilised
- Technical recruitment
- Line Management – performance reviews, mentoring
- Consultancy – user/UX workshops and resulting documentation
- Project Management

Projects
A sample of the projects has consulted for, worked on and/or overseen:
- www.genesissports.co.uk – custom WordPress WooCommerce platform with SOAP integration with client's proprietary inventory management and order fulfilment system.

- www.canieatthere.co.uk – custom WordPress site offering an allergen friendly database at its heart to allow diners with food allergies to easily find and review suitable restaurants.
- www.tilda.com – oversaw recent responsive retrofit to one of the UK's leading premium rice brands.
- www.prozonesports.com – sports data insights company – architected and did initial backend implementation
- www.scorem.co.uk – project managed this First 10 start-up idea.

August 2008 – May 2013: Director and Freelance web developer, Breeze Creative Media Ltd/Cat Creative Marketing

After taking voluntary redundancy from Orange, Mark provided standards based web development, hosting and bespoke web programming for a variety of clients. The work involved has largely been WordPress and/or bespoke PHP and MySQL based development and includes:

Contracting
- Food and Environment Research Agency (Sep 2011 – Apr 2013) – provision of ColdFusion programming services on a number of web applications.
- Cubik Ltd (June 2011 – Aug 2011) – front-end web development for Cubik's ASP.Net proprietary content management system.
- Creative Juice (2010 – 2 months) – front end development/integration work for automotive clients utilising Yii framework
- UCHD Sheffield University (2010 – 2 months) – customised WordPress work on a drag and drop interface for a Diabetes research project.
- AllGood (2009 – 2 months) provided Concrete5 CMS sites for this Leeds based marketing agency
- Somethin' Else (2009) – provided front end mark-up for a chart prediction game for the Big Top 40.

Own clients:
- http://www.unlimited.org.uk – responsive WordPress build utilising custom content types.
- http://www.clearlytraining.co.uk – responsive WordPress build with e-commerce
- http://www.boho-weddings.com – bespoke WordPress theme and cloud server build/hosting
- http://www.deanvipond.com – mark-up and WordPress customisation

Skills utilised
- ColdFusion 8,9 & 10
- PHP 5 & MySQL 5
- XHTML and CSS
- JavaScript – jQuery & Prototype
- WordPress customisation
- Jigoshop, WooCommerce & Opencart
- VCS – Subversion & Mercurial

March 2004 – July 2008: Developer/Senior Developer, Orange

Mark commenced working for Freeserve just prior to its rebrand to Wanadoo and began by working on the re-coding of the CMS to rebrand to Wanadoo and subsequent amalgamation into Orange.

Within a year, Mark was promoted to Senior Developer and assisted the team leader in leading the web CMS development team on a number of software projects including the eventual transfer of CMS functionality to Orange España. Other work involved the creation of XML feed parsing scripts and XSLT style sheets for events such as the World Cup and Olympics.

In his time with Freeserve/Wanadoo/Orange Mark increased his knowledge of large-scale ColdFusion development, XML, UML along with enhanced Oracle PL/SQL skills and deputised, on a number of occasions, for the CMS development team leader.

Skills utilised

- Application design (Microsoft Visio, ER Studio & Word for Modelling and documentation)
- Spectra & ColdFusion 4.5, 5 and MX
- X/HTML, CSS and JavaScript
- Oracle 7, 8 and SQL Server 2000
- Project planning (Microsoft Project)
- VCS – StarTeam and SVN
- XML, XSLT and XPATH

May 2003 – March 2004: Developer, Weir Technology

Mark worked as a ColdFusion application developer for Weir Technology (now Shwarck), which is a company that provided printing, and colour correction services for multi-national corporations. Mark's role involved developing digital artwork approval and digital asset management applications. This work involved the creation of an XML gateway to transmit printing plate mock-up details via the Internet direct to printing presses in Spain.

Skills utilised

- ColdFusion 4.5, 5 and MX
- HTML, CSS and JavaScript
- Oracle 7, 8 and SQL Server 2000
- SOAP
- VCS - SVN
- Windows NT, XP, 2000 and 2003
- XML

Sept 1998 – April 2003: VVT/DTI Project, Syntegra
Lead Developer Jan 2000 – April 2003
Mark was the lead developer for a number of ColdFusion based web applications including a customer relationship management system called MaccSim. ark experienced the full software development lifecycle and was a key member of the team that developed an XML gateway solution that allowed the company's client to migrate 2500 users to a Siebel 6 CRM replacement in a successfully controlled manner.

Mark led a team of two other developers and was the development team's interface with both internal and external clients. Mark's duties included status and delivery reporting, management of the team's work, coaching and support of other team members, third line support for new releases, and consultation on new developments, overseeing of successful deliveries and training of support staff.

Skills utilised

- Application design (Microsoft Visio & Word for Modelling and documentation)
- ColdFusion 4.01, 4.5 and 5
- HTML, CSS 7 JavaScript
- Oracle 7, 8, SQL Server 7 and 2000
- Project planning (Microsoft Project)
- VCS - SourceSafe
- XML & XHTML

Integration/test analyst September 1998 – Jan 2000
Mark fulfilled a software packaging/integration test analyst role performing the capture and automated delivery of software packages delivered to the DTI team using Novadigm's Enterprise Desktop Manager software to BTsme desktops.

To September 1998   **Various temporary roles**

Education/Training

September 1984 – June 1989   **St Bede's RC Grammar School, Bradford**
6 O Levels and 2 A Levels.

References

References are available upon request.