

# Mark Skeet

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## Summary

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I am an experienced digital leader 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. I have the ability to quickly master new skills and technologies, I'm currently skilling up with React. I have over two decades of full lifecycle development experience and am used to working to deadlines across multiple projects.

Away from the world of IT, I follow F1, take the odd photograph, here and there, mainly whilst walking in the wilds of Wester Ross, Scotland. I hold a full driving licence.

## Work experience

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### April 2020 – present: Digital Development Manager for Bewonder\*

I'm currently the development manager for the Digital department at this integrated agency which is part of the Jones Lang LaSalle family of companies.

I principally hold management responsibility for a diverse range of people covering developers, designers and digital content execs and managers as well as outsourced supplier relationships.

In my time with Bewonder\* I have utilized my many years of experience to:

- Lead on solutions architecture
- Contribute to front and back-end development duties, where needed
- Implement version control and uptime monitoring
- Outline a digital strategy vision
- Consult, quote, plan and oversee a busy digital department's outputs
- Plan and oversee the re-platforming of hosting solution with a 70% profit uplift in year 2
- Introduce operational efficiencies through componentization of code bases
- Introduce greater go live rigour via build pipelines and process QA
- Drive use of UX and accessibility concerns to improve end solutions
- Made Use of CDN and Caching strategies to dramatically improve performance
- Implement software firewalls and code snippets for improved security for sites
- Mentor and line manage a team of 6
- Introduce a sequence of educational pieces for the wider business

### Skills utilised

- WordPress front and back-end build
- HTML/CSS/JS
- Performance optimization
- Digital and technical consultancy
- Project Management
- Recruitment
- Line Management – performance reviews, mentoring

## **February 2018 – April 2020: Delivery Manager/Lead Developer for Smart Insights**

I was 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 2 line reports. I reported into the company CEO and was a member of the senior management team.

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

My key responsibilities included 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 were 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***

I supported and refactored numerous projects from classic ASP into WordPress/PHP for the marketing team at DWP Digital. I also oversaw a process to rebuild multiple site style templates to mirror GDS Design Manual principles.

I refactored [Cold weather Payments](#) and [Pension Credit Calculator](#) into GDS style and utilised PHP7 for performance improvements. I managed and implemented a 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.

I was routinely involved in agile practices and user workshops as part of system requirement definition and delivery management.

In the final months of this contract, I mentored an internal junior developer with no PHP or WordPress experience. By the time I left his skill set had been raised to the level needed for ongoing service provision required by the department.

### ***June 2015 to Oct 2015 – Contract Front End Developer at G2G3 Digital***

During this short-term contract, I was responsible for implementing new features and retroactively fixing visual layout issues across mobile and IE for a number of high traffic websites. I was primarily utilising SASS based CSS and command line build tools. I 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**

For 3 years I was part of the front-end developer vetting team for Aquent, a global recruitment consultancy. This was a pilot program that sought to pre-assess potential front end developer candidates for Aquent's clients. Here, I utilised my accumulated skills and experience, as a developer, to assess the capabilities of front-end developer candidates as part of Aquent's hiring process. In my time performing this role I successfully conducted more than 400 interviews.

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

I joined First 10 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, I built, 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, I was mandated with providing solutions architecture, UX workshops and subsequent proposal/wireframe creation. I then project managed each build often owning much of the technical communications with client project sponsors. I also worked with several clients in an agile manner for project delivery, including sprint planning, scrums, daily stand ups etc.

I was a member 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 I consulted for, worked on and/or oversaw:

- [www.genesisports.co.uk](http://www.genesisports.co.uk) – custom WordPress WooCommerce platform with SOAP integration with client's proprietary inventory management and order fulfilment system.

- [www.canieatthere.co.uk](http://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](http://www.tilda.com) – oversaw recent responsive retrofit to one of the UK's leading premium rice brands.
- [www.prozonesports.com](http://www.prozonesports.com) – sports data insights company – architected and did initial backend implementation
- [www.scorem.co.uk](http://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, I 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**

I commenced working for Freeserve just prior to the 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, I was promoted to Senior Developer and assisted the team leader in leading the web CMS development team on several 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**

I 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. My 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**

I was the lead developer for a number of ColdFusion based web applications including a customer relationship management system called MaccSim. I 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.

I led a small team of two other developers and was the development team's interface with both internal and external clients. My 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 & JavaScript
- Oracle 7, 8, SQL Server 7 and 2000
- Project planning (Microsoft Project)
- VCS - SourceSafe

- XML & XHTML

**Integration/test analyst September 1998 – Jan 2000**

I 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**

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**Education/Training**

**September 1984 – June 1989    St Bede's RC Grammar School, Bradford**

6 O Levels and 2 A Levels.