CHRISTOPHER ANDREW CORBYN

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D.o.B: 3rd May 1983

Professional Software Engineer with over two years of experience in the Information Technology industry. Considerable knowledge of **PHP**, **DHTML**, **XHTML** and database design & management. Over one year of *first-hand* experience in **Linux** server administration including Apache HTTPd, PHP 4 & 5, MySQL, BIND9 and Exim MTA installation and configuration. Excellent academic qualifications.

Programming & Development Expertise

PHP (Hypertext Preprocessor):

- Over two years of experience working with PHP4 and PHP5 to produce full cycle web applications
- Solid grasp of the **OOP** implementation and **design patterns** in both version 4 and 5 of PHP
- Worked with a small team of software engineers on a *full-time* government-funded behaviour management project currently being rolled out into schools across the UK
- Produced linux-based command line tools and system pipes for server administration tasks
- Administrator of the DevNetwork Forums providing advice and support to young and upcoming PHP developers as well as participating in advanced theory discussion
- Familiar with the **security** considerations involved in web based application design
- Capable of developing full web applications *from the ground up*

JavaScript & DHTML:

- Created highly graphical dynamic user interfaces and navigation systems
- Advanced understanding of the JavaScript DOM implementation across the major web browsers
- Worked with **AJAX** and XMLHttp techniques inside of large web applications
- Solid understanding of object-oriented development, design patterns and exception handling

XHTML, XML & CSS:

- Produced fully **standard compliant** XHTML 1.0 and XHTML 1.1 web page layouts
- Familiar with the web accessibility guidelines from WAI and W3C
- Worked to produce clean markup with **usability** in mind for everybody
- Solid unserstanding of XML, DTD specifications and XSLT
- Website Design Work:
  - IRIS.ac – It Really Is Simple!
  - SwiftMailer.org – PHP Mailing

Databases:

- Over two years of experience working with MySQL from the command line and for programming uses
- Familiar with the **SQL** standards and how MySQL and **PostgreSQL** implement these
- Worked on a *full-time* government-funded behaviour management application with millions of rows of data
- Spent time setting up a **MySQL cluster** with NDB on a cluster of eight Linux servers
- Well-versed on building complex queries and query optimization

Agile Development & Unit Testing:

- My application design skills include, but are not limited to Test Driven Development through the use of Unit Tests
- I use Marcus Baker's SimpleTest Unit Testing framework to back my test cases in PHP and JSUnit for JavaScript development
- Both personal projects and sub-projects with my employer are built around this design methodology

Employment History

Senior Developer, Manchester City Council, Didsbury   **2005 - PRESENT**

- Worked with a small team of software developers on-site at Parrs Wood High School in Didsbury, South Manchester to participate in the production of a *large-scale* behaviour management system & MIS
- Gained invaluable experience of working with a fully object-oriented PHP5 application with over **20,000 source lines of code**
- Used Agile Development Methodologies to create bug free, intuitively interfaced and well structured source code
- Made formal decisions on the direction of areas of the project and brought new and vibrant ideas into the application
- Re-structured the application to implement the MVC design pattern using a custom templating system that uses nothing more than basic PHP calls and HTML comments to provide a clean and effective separation of business and presentation logic
- Handled millions of rows of data in a MySQL 4 (later upgraded to 5) database running from a cluster of eight Linux MySQL/NDB servers
- Took on the full responsibility of managing the front-end design in addition to creating new backend modules from scratch
- Made *business critical* decisions in the management of the project
- Took an active role in successfully pushing the system out into schools across the UK, initially working with Manchester to pilot the application
- Maintained HTTP, Mail, DNS, LVS and MySQL servers with hands-on experience at a large secure commercial data center (IFL) in Manchester

IT Helpdesk Agent, Electronic Data Systems, County Durham   **2004 - 2005**

- Provided remote desktop and telephone support for clients at two very large financial organisations within the UK
- Gained excellent communication skills through working for one of the largest international IT organisations in the world and dealing with colleagues in Spain, Texas and Hungary on a daily basis
- Gained experience of working with mainframe AS400 systems in the UK

Academic History

University of Durham, Country Durham	**2001 - 2004**
Prior Pursglove Sixth Form College, Guisborough	**1999 - 2001**
Laurence Jackson School, Guisborough	**1994 - 1999**

Areas of Interest in Software Development

Regular Expressions:

- One of the most fascinating and efficient forms of string manipulation used in modern programming. I initially learned regular expressions as a result of studying Perl and advanced usage of the grep tool on linux systems
- Expert understanding of the principles used by the *regex* engine and the implementation of PCRE in both PHP and JavaScript in addition to Perl
- I work with perl style regular expressions on a day-to-day basis and have written online tutorials on the use of them

Web Accessibility & Standards:

- I firmly believe that content fit for the public via the world wide web should be fit for everybody and I take great pride in ensuring my work is accessible to as many people of possible regardless of any impairments or the specific software/hardware used to access it
- I have taken much time in learning the guidelines laid out by the W3C in order to promote such accessibility and push towards ensuring the developers of the web browsers follow these standards

Object-Oriented Programming:

- Quite possibly the most organised and effective way to build applications in languages which support it, leading to easy maintenance and easy to read, logically laid out source code
- I find the subject area of design patterns in OOP extremely interesting and almost invaluable to learn since they provide a great asset to any developer
- Using OOP in application design presents developers with an open gateway to using agile development techniques, in particular, Test Driven Development

GNU/Linux Experience

- I use Ubuntu Linux on the desktop as my primary operating system. I'm extremely familiar with the underlying linux system through working with both Gentoo Linux and ArchLinux (aka AL) systems and as a result of which can handle and manipulate linux systems very effectively
- All development work done in my current job has been produced and hosted on the ArchLinux system
- I'm extremely familiar with networking capabilities on GNU/Linux systems
- I have maintained and administered a VDS server running Gentoo Linux for the last 18 months, providing DNS, HTTP, FTP and IMAP4/POP3 E-mail to multiple domains, with multiple users. As a result of which I have learned an extreme amount about linux security and public server management
- Worked with a small team of Linux server administrators to build a cluster of eight linux (AL) servers running MySQL with the NDB engine

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External Activities

Author of Swift Mailer:

- Swift Mailer is a fully pluggable PHP Mailing library. It can handle (technically) any connection given to it that follows the API
- I wrote this since I have a strong understanding of MTAs and SMTP servers as a result of running one. After seeing a lot of requests for easy ways to handle mail attachments, Bcc recipients and batch emailing I decided to write Swift. It was never intended to reach the scale it has reached but demand has kept this library in development
- Swift's Plugin System is a concept in itself, and has stirred a bit of interest among some well known PHP developers

DevNetwork Forum Administrator:

- I dedicate a lot of my spare time to my role on the hugely popular DevNetwork PHP Forums
- Being an administrator involves the maintenance of the bulletin board as well as making decisions over changes on the board
- I get a lot of satisfaction from volunteering to be a part of a community of like-minded individuals who are all either working in, or learning PHP

Learning New Programming Languages:

- Through my passion for making sure I'm always learning something new I'm currently studying C++ development for GNU/Linux systems and Java for web based development with Tomcat/mod_jk
- I also intend to study Lisp in the future

Sports; Snooker, Badminton

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