Niall Beard

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EXPERIENCE

E-lab Engineer
myGrid, University of Manchester, UK — Summer 2013

Presently I am employed by the myGrid team; a team dedicated to the development of e-Science software tools. My role is to continue the agile development of two software products: The BioCatalogue and BioVeL Portal. The former is a centralized web service repository for biologists. It allows scientists to easily register, discover, annotate and monitor web services. The latter site is a portal that allows scientists to setup, run, and review Taverna workflows through a web interface. Aside from software development, other duties include maintaining our host servers and wiki pages, collaborating with and disseminating to the scientific community, and responding to requests for support.

Key skills

- Project Management skills such as:
  - Making decisions about the projects direction.
  - Promoting the product.
  - Time management.

Infrastructure Engineer, Web Ergonomics Lab
WEL, University of Manchester, UK — Summer 2012

Between my third and fourth year at university I took a summer placement developing and deploying a suite of programs for the Web Ergonomics Lab. In this role I elicited software requirements, researched and selected appropriate packages, made modifications and incorporated them to create a complete integrated system infrastructure designed to allow researchers to effectively share their research. As a requirement for the fourth year of my degree, I produced a 12,000 word report detailing the design choices, development progress and reflections from my placement.

Key skills

- Software requirements elicitation.
- Research and critical evaluation of software packages.
- Agile software development techniques.

Web Development, SysMO
University of Manchester, UK -- Summer 2011

Between my second and third year I worked for the myGrid team on a rails web application called "SysMO-SEEK" designed to share systems biology research. SysMO was a collaborative project between the University of Manchester and Heidelberg Institute of Technology. In this placement I worked closely with the geographically distributed team to help develop a number of features. I continued to work with the project as part of my third year project receiving a first grade average for the completed implementation and 12,000 word report.

Key Skills

- Programming in Ruby on Rails.
- Quickly adapting to an unfamiliar domain.
- Writing detailed evaluative reports.

Hornet Technologist, STARS
University of Manchester, UK — 2009-2011

During my first and second year of university I took the position of [Hornet Rep](#) and Hornet technologist respectively. As a hornet representative, my job consisted of front-line networking assistance with residents in student halls. I provided technical support for connectivity issues and, as a result of my dedicated service, was promoted to hornet technologist in my second year. As a technologist it was my duty to provide support for junior reps, facilitate training days, research methods of locating illegitimate wireless networks, and to contribute to the knowledge base.

Additional Work History
- Lifeguard (2007-2010)
- IT Service Desk Assistant (2012-2013)
- CFD Modeller (summer 2010)
- A/V support at conferences (2010)
- Campus and Faculty Building tour guide

EDUCATION

University of Manchester
MEng Computer Science — 2009-2013

During my degree, I focused my studies on Networking, Distributed Computing, Machine Learning, Text Mining and the Semantic Web as well as a host of other subjects. I developed a strong and deep understanding of programming languages as well as hands on experience in agile software development. During my third and fourth years I also took modules in business, finance and enterprise which are skills that are directly transferable in any company setting.

Winstanley College
2007-2009
A2 Level: Philosophy (A), Maths (A), Computing (B)
AS Level: Politics (B), Further Maths (B)

ACHIEVEMENTS AND POSITIONS HELD
- Student Staff Consultation Committee member
- Accenture Short Film Competition winner
- PriceWaterhouseCooper teamwork award runner up

SKILLS

Good fundamental understanding of programming languages. Excellent at breaking down difficult problems, exploring options, and critiquing and communicating solutions. A solid theoretical background and hands-on experience in practical agile development.

REFERENCES
Tyrell Basson
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Professor Carole Goble
Principle Investigator of the myGrid project
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