

Tom Insam

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Skills

I have developed in Perl for 6 years, including stand-alone scripting, GUI applications (on MacOS X and Linux), CGI scripts, and full Apache / mod_perl applications. I have extensive experience with many CPAN modules, including Template Toolkit, DBI, and XML::LibXML, and have contributed several modules to CPAN, such as Class::Persist, an object persistence framework, and Template::TAL, a safe XML-based template language. I am also an active member of the London Perl mongers group, and have given talks on UTF-8 in Perl, Mac GUI applications, and writing IRC bots.

I have 2 years of Python experience, including writing GUI applications on MacOS X, mod_python based web applications using Django, stand-alone scripts and XML API clients. My public Python applications include an iTunes client library (used in several linux media applications), and a Mac network services browser. I have also written cross-platform GUI applications in Python using GTK 1 and 2.

I have extensive knowledge of the core language features of JavaScript, and I am comfortable with DOM scripting and XMLHttpRequest, and the use of Mochikit as a client-side JavaScript library.

I am familiar with several dialects of SQL, and have practical experience using MSSQL, MySQL, PostgreSQL and SQLite servers from Perl and Python. I'm comfortable using XML from both these languages, and have considerable experience dealing with the complex problems arising from internationalization and using strings with multiple character sets in databases, XML and HTML.

Degree

Sep 1997 - Jul 2000: Maths BSc (2:2 Honours), from Imperial College, University of London

Work History

Aug 2003 – present: Fotango (software developer)

I started working at Fotango as a junior front-end programmer, where I was responsible for the development of an internal Canon e-card system, delivered in time for Christmas. This involved the development of both the entirety of the Perl server-side code and the DHTML interface for users, as well as the administrative interface for use by Canon. Shortly afterwards I was moved to a senior role in the back-end development team, where I have helped develop internal application frameworks and stand-alone servers for the wide range of applications produced by Fotango. I now have significant involvement in almost every deployed project, and spend a large amount of time assisting, mentoring and training the front-end team in the use of our frameworks and general good development practices.

At Fotango I have come to believe strongly in test-driven development, and have used many aspects of Extreme Programming to help prioritise features and ensure high quality code, including story-based development and pair programming, all of which I find extremely useful. I use source control in all my personal and professional projects, and I am familiar with CVS, Subversion and SVK.

I have also helped in the development of our internal smoke and build system, which builds and tests all of our projects nightly, and have experience designing and deploying complete web application solutions, including static / mod_perl paired Apache web servers, database (both MySQL and Postgresql) setup and replication, and load-balancing. I am used to developing scalable and high-availability solutions, most recently a large-scale file storage and thumbnailing server. Projects I have been involved in have stored and served very large numbers of digital camera photos and user data for Canon customers spread across Europe. I also developed and maintain the XML user-management API for the Canon Europe single sign-on system.

Fotango's most recent project, Zimki, is based on an embedded JavaScript runtime (SpiderMonkey) and in building this I have had a chance to improve my C and XS skills, as well as the use of sophisticated server-side JavaScript techniques such as E4X.

Jul 1999 – Aug 2003: Solar Century (systems administrator and desktop support)

For one year part-time and three years full-time, I worked as the Network Administrator for Solar Century, a solar solutions company based in Waterloo. Over these 4 years, the network grew from 5-6 desktop computers and a server with dial-up internet access to a company of 50 full and part-time employees. By this time, I was administering 40 desktops, 10 laptops, 3 Windows 2000 servers (including Exchange server and MSSQL server), a leased line internet connection, a remote office, and several remote workers. I was also responsible for budgeting for and implementing all changes, and maintained my own budget for both the computing and phone systems. This included meeting with team leaders to establish their needs, and communicating requirements to the finance department.

Links & Projects I'm proud of

A recent Dopplr / Google Earth mash-up: <http://dopplr.realm.zimki.com/>

DjangoKit – package Django sites as GUI apps: <http://jerakeen.org/code/djangokit/>

My django-powered website: <http://jerakeen.org/about/cms/>

Python iTunes client library: <http://jerakeen.org/code/pythondaap/>

GUI MacOS services browser: <http://jerakeen.org/code/flame/>

Technical talks I have given: <http://jerakeen.org/talks/>

Perl modules I have written: <http://search.cpan.org/~tomi/>