

Nick Murdoch

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Last updated: 2016-02-05

Profile

I am a hard-working and friendly individual who takes pride in delivering work to a high standard. I have a strong eye for detail and am capable of quickly acquiring new skills for tackling challenging problems. I am able to work in team environments both as a group leader and a team member, as well as individually if needed. I manage my time well and always keep thorough documentation of my software.

Skills

Python

- Nine years professional experience as a primary language developing web applications, APIs, and utilities. Competent with **Python 2** and **Python 3**.
- Extensive experience with the following frameworks and modules:
 - Web frameworks: **CherryPy**; **Django**; **Pylons**.
 - **Genshi**: a templating language particularly well-suited to HTML and XML.
 - **SQLAlchemy**.
 - **Cython**: including implementing bindings for a C library.

C

- Six years professional experience developing mission-critical C software.
- Experience in optimising and debugging complex codebases.
- Implemented a wide variety of different features in a high-performance search engine, including sole responsibility for Unicode support and extensive work on query parsing (including e.g. flex).

Other languages

- **C++**: Five years professional experience maintaining C++ code, adding functionality and making improvements to existing software.
- **Objective C**: Two years professional experience including development for iOS.
- **JavaScript**: Competent at writing cross-browser web applications with fall-back for non-capable browsers. Familiar with the **MochiKit** and **jQuery** libraries.
- **SQL**: Experience designing and maintaining **PostgreSQL** and **SQLite** databases as part of web applications.
- Other: Experienced with mid-level **XHTML** and **CSS** in a cross-browser environment. Competent with **bash** and the usual command line tools in scripting tasks.

Software

- Nine years experience using **Xpian** as a search library from C++ and Python.
- Familiar with the deployment and usage of **ElasticSearch**.
- **Debian Linux**: OS of choice. Highly familiar with usage and everyday administration, professionally and personally. Also experienced with **Ubuntu**. Experienced at deploying software using apt, pip, and autotools.
- Other *NIX: Familiar with basic administration of **RedHat/CentOS** and **Solaris** servers professionally.
- **Mac OS X**: Familiar with usage, administration, and software development (including **Xcode**).
- **Microsoft Windows**: Familiar with the Windows environment.
- Competent with **vim**, **screen/tmux**, **subversion**, **bzr**, **git**, and general Linux command line utilities.

Employment History

- 2006 – 2011: **Developer, Attraqt PLC** (at the time known as Locayta Ltd); &
- 2011 – present: **Lead Search Architect, Attraqt Ltd.**
 - Lead architect and developer of the search engine for Attraqt's "Freestyle Merchandising" platform.
 - Sole developer of a bespoke comparison shopping solution for a high-profile high-street-brand client.
 - Providing technical support to users of Locayta Search Mobile, the company's iOS search library.
 - I have a good working relationship with the company's clients and meet with them regularly to discuss ideas and suggestions.

Open Source Work

- 2010 – present: **BitlBee** (bitlbee.org).
 - Technical user support in the #bitlbee support IRC channel.
 - Various patches and additions to the source code.

Education

- 2003 – 2006: **University of Kent at Canterbury: Computer Science - BSc (Hons).**
 - Final year modules: Group Project; Dynamic Web; Human-Computer Interaction; Computer Graphics; Computer Security and Cryptography; Cognitive Neural Networks; Mobile and Ubiquitous Computing.
- 1996 – 2003: **Dartford Grammar School.**
 - A-Level Maths, Further Maths, and Physics.
 - AS-Level Chemistry and German.

Interests

In my spare time I enjoy hiking, cooking, and listening to podcasts.