

Simon Lang – Web Application Developer

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I'm a web application developer currently based in Edinburgh, Scotland. I have a Software Engineering degree, and about 10 years of industry experience. I specialise in Javascript and Symfony (PHP) development, but also have experience with a wide range of technologies, and always love to learn new ones. Currently I'm focusing on trying to improve my Javascript skills in the event that node.js and nosql rule the world one day!

In addition to my technical skills (outlined in detail below) I have an excellent phone manner and am able to write clear and concise emails, technical documents, and reports. I am an easy-going sort of person and find it easy to get along with colleagues and work in a close team environment.

I love my job and really think making web applications is fun. I'm always keen to hear from talented, passionate and like-minded people, so please get in touch if you think we'd work well together.

Employment

Before 2011 all employment and education has been in Australia.

2010 - 2011: Self Employed. Freelance web and application developer.

The majority of my work is done through oDesk, but I've also done work outside of it. In the last year I've spent most of my time on 2-3 major projects and about 8-10 smaller ones.

Primary technologies used: PHP, Symfony, Doctrine, MySQL, Javascript, jQuery, JSON, Google Maps, LESS CSS, Facebook APIs, Unix, cPanel

2006 - 2010: Kintek.com.au. Production Manager, Software Engineer

When I joined Kintek there were only two staff members (my bosses). They treated me extremely well, and taught me how to produce professional websites. The company has since grown to about 10 employees, and now specialises in making highly advanced web applications. It's cutting edge technology, with a team that loves it and I count myself lucky to have been a part of it. It was during my time at Kintek that I developed a real passion for Software Development, and the web as a platform. I served in a lot of roles, but primarily I was a web developer, programmer and manager.

Primary technologies used: PHP, Zend Framework, MySQL, Javascript, jQuery, CSS, Unix

2008 - 2009: University of Queensland. Tutor (Web Information Systems)

At University I worked as a tutor for a third year Web Information Systems course, for which I received a tutoring excellence award. The course covered topics such as **HTML, CSS, Javascript, PHP, JSP, Oracle, MySQL** and making basic web apps. It was a relatively easy subject for a lot of students but I believed it was a good, practical course. I also created lectures for the lecturer to present.

Primary technologies used: HTML, CSS, Javascript, PHP, JSP, Oracle, MySQL

2001 - 2005: Daily Mercury. IT Support

During high school and university holidays I worked as a trainee to the systems administrator of a local newspaper of about 100 staff, a job which I really enjoyed. My main role was to provide technical support to the staff. My boss, the sysadmin was a real professional and I learned plenty about **troubleshooting, networking and computer hardware**. I also gained a bit of insight into the print industry.

Primary responsibilities: Server administration, Tech Support, Visual Basic, HTML

Education

2003 - 2009: B. Engineering (Software). University of Queensland, Australia

I started a 3 year Bachelor of Information Technology degree at the **University of Queensland**, which actually took me 7 years and came out as **Bachelor of Engineering (Software)** instead. I learned object oriented programming and a lot of software development theory. My favourite subjects were Artificial Intelligence, Web Development and Information Security. Most of our assignments were **Java**, but I also did a little **C, C#, C++ and PHP**. During that time I worked as a tutor and had a great job at a local web development company called Kintek.

2000 - 2002: Certificate II in Information Technology. MRAEL Training

During high school I completed a traineeship doing IT support at the local newspaper. The traineeship itself didn't teach me a lot, but staying on working with the newspaper after it completed was invaluable, and I learned a lot on the job, as mentioned above.

1998 - 2002: Year 12. Mirani State High School

In high school I took a Programming/Database (Visual Basic 6 and MSAccess) subject and won the highest achievement award in both senior years. The course taught me some basic procedural programming and relational database theory.

Skills / Toolkit

I love learning new technologies and programming languages. However, these ones are my favourites, and the ones I consider myself most skilled with. Left to my own devices, I will usually choose these technologies for most web projects.

I have been using most of these technologies fairly consistently for the last 6 years:

PHP	LESS CSS
Symfony & Doctrine	Zend Framework
Git	Google Maps API
MySQL & Navicat	Apache
Javascript & jQuery	Unix (Linux and FreeBSD)
HTML5	Photoshop

These are technologies which I have experience with, but do not usually use. i.e. Less than one year of professional/commercial experience:

Java & JSP	Microsoft IIS
ASP .NET (C# & VB)	Subversion (SVN)
Microsoft SQL Server	Oracle
Wordpress	Web Services (SOAP)

Technologies which I would love to learn, but have not explored much yet:

node.js	Django (Python)
NoSQL (CouchDB or MongoDB)	Any of Google's other APIs
Canvas, Web Workers	

Recent code samples (JS & PHP) can be found here: <http://www.simonlang.org/#codesamples>

Portfolio

Some projects I've worked on as a freelancer in the past year. Screenshots available on my website: <http://www.simonlang.org/#portfolio>

Winning Games: Wickets, Nations & States Card Games

Since early 2011 I have been assisting a small Australian business called Winning Games to make their card games into web-based apps. They include multiplayer, mini games, and thousands of cards, and have been implemented as Facebook Apps and Chrome Web Store apps.

Technologies: **PHP, Symfony, Doctrine, MySQL, Javascript, jQuery, JSON, Google Maps, LESS CSS, Facebook APIs, cPanel**

CabakMon Digital Signage

This was an interesting project that involved interfacing with a few different systems. The result was a slideshow that appeared on an array of large-screen televisions in a local shopping centre. The slides depicted real-time weather and energy consumption information that was fetched dynamically from sensors on the solar panels on the roof of the shopping centre.

Technologies used: **PHP, Zend_RSS, GD2, SQL Server, IIS, JSON.**

Vesox.com Domain Generator

A very small tool for a client I started with recently - generates "random" domains for prospective hosting customers, and checks their availability.

Technologies used: **PHP, Symfony, Doctrine, MySQL**

Work Experience Directory

One of the first projects I took on as a freelancer, involved creating a simple job-search type website, but targeted specifically at Australian high school students looking for work experience placements.

Technologies used: **PHP, Zend Framework, MySQL, jQuery**

STK Newsletter Template

A very simple newsletter template. Sliced from **PSD** to **HTML+CSS**

Prior to 2010 I worked for a web agency, so I can't claim any of their sites or apps as purely my own work. Here are a few of the more interesting projects I worked on during my time there. My primary role would have been backend (PHP+MySQL) and front-end (HTML+CSS+Javascript) development.

CRC Mining SmartCap - Software that monitored truck driver's brain waves (seriously)

CRMother - Custom CRM we used to manage our customers and projects

PurplePalate - Ecommerce Wine & Events

TripleP Client Scoring Application – Recording and analysis tool for clinical psychologists

Site Management System - Logistics and management for distribution companies

TeachThis - Downloadable teaching resources for primary school teachers