Jon Bowes

Curriculum Vitae

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Availability

I am currently seeking contract positions and am able to work on-site or from my own premises. For up to date availability and rate expectations, please get in touch. Example URL's and references are available on request.

Experience

I have worked on projects ranging from small-scale brochure sites to full online department stores and corporate intranets. My programming language of choice is PHP and I am perfectly at home working on both front and back end projects. I also have experience of working with a range of industry standard MVC Frameworks such as Laravel, Zend, Lumen and others.

I have worked primarily on a LAMP platform and have experience in setting up, configuring and maintaining servers running on various flavours of Linux. I have a keen interest in DevOps and am constantly looking for ways to improve and streamline my CI / CD pipelines.

I enjoy working with new teams and facing up to new challenges and new technologies. I try to incorporate Agile working methodologies in my approach to the work I do for my clients and have worked within Agile teams.

Key Skills

Development technologies:

- Source Control (Git & SVN)
- CMS development - Wordpress development, Concrete5 and also many custom built CMS applications
- Linux server administration – favourite flavour is RedHat, but I'm comfortable on most distros

Backend technologies:

- PHP 3 – 7.x
- Laravel 4 onwards; Zend 1 & 2; also some experience with Symfony, Lumen, Silex and Nova
- TDD / BDD using PHPUnit, PHPSpec and Behat
- MySQL (PDO / Doctrine / Eloquent); MongoDB; Redis

Frontend technologies:

- Some experience with Angular 2+, but am currently focused on learning Vue.js
- CSS Frameworks such as Twitter Bootstrap and Zurb Foundation
- Grunt / Gulp / NPM / Webpack
- JavaScript / AJAX (including frameworks such as jQuery)
- CSS / CSS2 / CSS3 / LESS / SASS
- W3C Web Standards & Accessibility

Soft Skills:

In addition to my technical knowledge, I also have good interpersonal and communication skills combined with problem solving and project management experience. My various roles have given me opportunities to work within team environments and also from my own initiative. I am enthusiastic about learning new technologies and techniques combined with a strong belief in sharing knowledge within a team. I have mentored junior developers, lead small teams and enjoy learning from colleagues.

Recent Clients and Contracts

Roseta: https://roseta.io/
Contract: February 2021 to May 2021

Roseta is a Laravel platform to move data between the various moving parts of a cloud based eCommerce industry by connecting APIs. My initial task was to quickly get up to speed with how the code works and help move through a backlog of new clients that needed to be onboarded. In addition, a recent security audit had flagged a need to upgrade the PHP version and the base Laravel version from v6 to the current v8. I took charge of this task, alongside a migration from their single server setup with Digital Ocean to a more scalable setup on AWS infrastructure based around AWS Elastic Beanstalk.

HealthBox Software Limited: https://www.myhealthbox.clinic/
Contract: November 2020 to January 2021

At HealthBox Software, I was working on a mobile app for the Health Tech sector. Initially I was brought on in a team of 3 backend developers, but by the end of the first month I was moved to the lead of the project. The application was built on Laravel 8. I also built the deployment pipelines using GitHub actions onto AWS Elastic Beanstalk, so that we could rapidly deploy updates to both a staging platform and the production platform. We were using Laravel Passport for the Authentication, although I was looking to move that to Sanctum for simplicity. We also integrated with a number of 3rd Party APIs, such as Garmin, Fitbit and Spoonacular. I had also begun development of a simple admin panel in Vue.js, to allow the stakeholders to view key metrics and for developers to access user data for debugging and admin purposes.

Superdry: https://superdry.com/
Contract: September 2020 to November 2020

Superdry are in the process of moving from an outdated PHP monolith to a new Micro Services based system. I joined the PHP team to help update and maintain the PHP system through the peak season until the new system was ready to come online. I integrated the Search page with a third party supplier and rebuilt the front end search experience. I also built a new Suggest algorithm to suggest category pages based on search terms as the third party was not able to supply reasonable suggestions in time for the business launch.

i2i Media: https://i2ic.com/
Contract: July 2020 to September 2020

i2i Media were in the process of building a video conference solution tailored to some big name film industry clients. The platform was based on Laravel and OpenVidu. I reported directly to the company owner and helped to advise on the direction of the project as well as to build out some innovative features, such as automated breakout and networking functions. I also took ownership of upgrading the code base to the latest version of Laravel and reviewing the system dependencies for resilience and security.

PSA Groupe: https://groupe-psa.com/en/
Contract: November 2018 to April 2020

I joined the development team as a Laravel Developer. I quickly helped the team move towards a more collaborative way of working, standardising packages and workflows where previously developers were building the same things over and over in different ways. I introduced the use of Vue.js components into the packages, providing reusable components that provided a great UX. I also introduced the use of Docker into the development toolchain and have consulted with the Integrations team to help improve their CI / CD pipelines. During my year I have also completed a number of internal projects, both new and inherited from previous developers.

Narrative Industries: https://www.narrativeindustries.com
Contract: May 2018 to October 2018

I returned to Narrative to work primarily on a project with their Key Client in addition to reworking the eCommerce side of a WordPress site that needed very specific customization and product filters. There was some legacy work using Zend Framework 1, but also some substantial work to modernize their site using modern CSS frameworks (Bootstrap 4) and migrating the site from PHP5.3 to 7.1 and modernizing deployment practices – again using pipelines and a custom Docker setup.

FlatPlan: https://hub.flatplan.app
Client work: May 2018 to August 2018

I was hired to create an innovative platform and plugin SDK for a London based startup. The platform would accept news articles from clients CMS systems and process them before sending them to Apple News via the Apple News API. The SDK was Composer based and plugged into the CMS to aid developers in getting their data into our platform. I assisted the directors with guidance on best practices and designed and built the platform using Laravel 5.6, which is now in production. I also set up an automated deployment pipeline using BitBucket pipelines and Docker. I continue to work with FlatPlan in an advisory role and undertaking occasional work, such recently upgrading the Laravel framework from v5.6 to v8.

New Star Media Limited: https://www.newstarmedia.co.uk
Contract: May 2017 to October 2018

As New Star Media continue to expand and bring in new work, I have been retained to oversee all technical operations. Duties include design and development of new products, primarily using PHP 5.6, Laravel 5.2 onwards and Concrete5. Also the mentoring and support of the full time technical team based both remotely and from their Dorking office.

Design Portfolio: http://www.design-portfolio.co.uk
Contract: February 2017 to March 2017

Design Portfolio is a large digital agency that use Concrete5 as their primary CMS and were in need of specialist resource to help complete a number of projects within their deadlines. My role is to provide specialist Concrete5 support and assist in building blocks and packages for the sites as well as front end development.

Omobono Limited: http://www.omobono.com
Contract: December 2016 to January 2017

I was called in to assist in bringing a large Concrete5 site to completion for a major client in the Middle East. My tasks entailed packaging up the work the in house team had already completed into a single maintainable package, along with providing advice on structure and best practice, plus the usual bug fixing and block building on both the front end of the site and the backend.

New Star Media Limited: http://www.newstarmedia.co.uk
Contract: August 2016 to November 2016

New Star Media acquired a significant new client based in the Middle East. The requirement was for a new modern version of their Engine Room system tailored to the new clients needs. The system was built using a Laravel API and Nova Framework frontend for the management portal. The clients customer facing websites have been built using Concrete5 with a custom plugin to connect with the API.

Bilfinger: http://locate.fm-base.co
Client work: July 2016

Created a Laravel based Restful API with a Nova Framework frontend. The API services both the web frontend and an iOS app used by Bilfinger engineers. The system tracks the location of the engineers and provides reports on which engineers visited which locations and for how long.

Cambridge University Press: http://www.cambridge.org
Contract: October 2015 to June 2016

Returned to CUP to work within a new team, building a new interface and API for their extensive library of books and journals. The system was built on Laravel 4 using a restful API, which we upgraded to Laravel 5.4.

Narrative Industries: http://www.narrativeindustries.com
Contract: June 2014 to October 2015

Working to support their in house development team providing general PHP and specialist Concrete5 development support.

Cambridge University Press: http://www.cambridge.org
Contract: February 2013 to May 2014

I was called in during January 2013 as a Concrete5 specialist to help the in house team transition their sites to Concrete5. I worked with them for over a year and have also built additional sites in Concrete5 for their US division. I continue to provide support to the US division on an occasional basis.

Less Rain Limited: http://www.lessrain.co.uk
Contract: October 2011 to January 2012

Worked with a team of designers, animators and developers on projects for Red Bull including Paper Wings and Art of Flight. I built the back end REST API's that the games interacted with, along with Sandboxes for developing plus Reporting and Configuration modules.

Seafood and Eat It: http://www.seafoodandeatit.co.uk
Client work

A fun and informative site for a leading Crab meat supplier. I worked with the clients design agency to turn their designs into a site that can be fully managed by the client via the Concrete5 CMS.

Jack Wills London: http://www.jackwills.com
Contract: October 2010 to December 2010

Building proof of concept intranet system using Concrete5

BMB Limited: http://www.bmb.uk.com
Contract: January 2009 to September 2010

Lead developer for a digital agency working on everything from email campaigns and microsites to high traffic e-commerce sites and business applications. Clients included GM Motors, Big Yellow and Gala Coral. Technologies used include Wordpress, Concrete5 CMS, PHP 5, MySQL, Zend Framework and JQuery.

Employment history

Web Developer:: http://jbxonline.net
October 2000 to present

JBxHosting Limited (JBxOnline) is my own company. It has enabled me to work with an incredibly wide variety of clients and work on every aspect of web design and development. As a business I have gained a great reputation amongst the Concrete5 community providing free support via their forums and also commercially by building custom addons and themes and providing premium support for other developers, businesses and agencies using Concrete5.

Emart :: Web Developer
September 2005 to October 2008

I was employed as the lead web developer, initially building an online department store. Shortly after I started, the company restructured and I was retained as the sole developer for the newly formed Insurance Choice. I developed a custom CMS using PHP and MySQL and implemented a number of online quote engines using rates provided by the Insurance companies. I also designed and built the company intranet and tracking systems along with reports and dashboards for the management.

Additionally, I was responsible for the companies IT infrastructure. I specified, built and implemented a Windows 2003 based network with Terminal Services and supported around 40 members of staff.

Acoustic Arrangements :: AV Technician
May 1999 to October 2000

- Sales Manager
- AV System design and installation
- Development of internal contact management database
- Design of company website *(http://www.e-av.co.uk)*

Previous Employment History

- ABEE Ltd :: Internal Sales *April 1998 to April 1999*
- Senate Electrical :: Internal Sales *April 1997 to April 1998*

Education

Lawrence Sheriff Grammar School
1990 to 1994
5 GCSE's Grades A to C including Maths (A) and English (B)

Interests

Mad about cycling! Was lucky enough to qualify for the Age Group Road World Cycling Championships in France in 2017 and got to ride for Great Britain. Would also like to get into Triathlon, but can't swim… yet…