James Draper

Software Developer

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SUMMARY

Software developer with 10 years of industry experience building websites, web applications, and mobile apps. Comfortable across the stack, with a track record of adapting quickly to new tools and frameworks. Fluent in JavaScript/TypeScript, PHP, Python, and the Node.js runtime. Proficient with frameworks and tools including Laravel, Flask, Vue.js, React/Next.js, React Native, WordPress, and SCSS.

EXPERIENCE

350.ORG, REMOTE

Position: Web developer 2023 – Present

● Maintain critical infrastructure across multiple networks hosting hundreds of WordPress sites, using Docker and CI/CD pipelines to ensure smooth deployment and system stability

● Advocated infrastructure modernisation by driving the migration of legacy WordPress themes to full site editing (FSE), with the aim of reducing technical debt and improving maintainability

● Introduced a reusable design system using Tailwind CSS and Storybook, standardising UI components across the organisation where no system previously existed

● Built a custom React-based form builder integrated with our CRM, enabling non-technical users to easily embed branded signup forms into WordPress pages via a custom plugin

● Developed a social media sidebar plugin for WordPress that dynamically generates and caches shortlinks on a per page basis, reducing load on our self-hosted Shlink-based shortener

● Upgraded the blog UX by implementing AJAX-based post loading, allowing users to browse without page reloads

PRESENT PAL, GLASGOW

Position: Software developer 2021 – 2023

● Present Pal created a mobile app to help students with learning difficulties give presentations at university. I was initially brought in as the backend developer on the licencing portal, gaining valuable experience in writing clean, production level PHP code using the Laravel framework

● After cutting my teeth on the backend, I was asked to help with feature updates on the native mobile app written in React Native. This was an exciting challenge, having never worked with native apps before. The styling was mostly done in Tailwind, and I have grown to love those utility classes

● As part of my work on the app, I acted as project lead to set up websockets to allow the app and the Present Pal Powerpoint addin to communicate with each other. The feature allowed real time state updates, so that if a student made changes to their notes in the app they were immediately reflected in Powerpoint. The websocket setup also allowed students to control their presentation slides from the app

● My work at Present Pal culminated in building a greenfield web application, with a React frontend using Next.js, and Python on the backend. For this project I have been mostly on the backend, setting up a rest API using Python with Flask, alongwith SQLAlchemy as the ORM. A large feature we are offering is AI summarisation of text which was assigned as my responsibility to implement, this required a lot of self directed study of prompt engineering, and implementation of solutions to circumvent the limitations of OpenAI while harnessing it's advantages

FORWARD ACTION, LONDON

Position: Web developer 2016 - 2021

● Sole developer of our internal employee portal, built with Laravel and Vue.js. Used daily by my colleagues for them to track time spent on various projects

● Built an upcoming weekly capacity viewer in Vue.js which replaced a particularly hairy spreadsheet and acted as a core part of the weekly capacity planning call

● Built many CMS templates for different non-profit organisations such as 350 Greenpeace, Cancer Research UK and Amnesty International

● Spearheaded the creation of a scrolling journey template for non-profit organisations to use in their CMS of choice, allowing them to easily create their own scrolling petition pages, which significantly increased social media shares and donations

● Designed and ran A/B tests to optimise the products we made, analysed results and produced reports when a statistically significant result was reached

HEALTH & LIFE, REMOTE

Position: Software Developer 2016

● Designed and constructed a web scraper with the purpose of storing information from various online directories

● Made use of the Python programming language to generate potential leads for business to business sales and marketing opportunities

● Cleaned and saved data in CSV format, which became an invaluable asset in business operations

WILSON PUBLICATIONS, HAMBLETON

Position: Software Developer 2015

● Produced a working prototype iOS app for the engineering and construction company Ingersol Rand, using the Apple programming language Swift

● Required extensive personal study of working in 3D space, which proved to be equal parts challenging and fascinating

EDUCATION

A Levels 2006-2008

● Law - B

● English Literature -B

● Business Studies - B

● Theatre Studies - B

ROYDS HALL HIGH SCHOOL 2001 – 2006 Ten GCSE's grades A - C.