Jon Robson

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Profile

I was the first frontend hire for Wikipedia's mobile web experience. I've built and fine-tuned experiences that cross over 200 languages and serve over three billion monthly page views, with a strong focus on mobile and leadership. Seeking a role where I can work on offline and mobile-based web experiences.

Experience

Frontend engineer; Senior software engineer; Technical lead
@ The Wikimedia Foundation, (Feb 2012 - present)

Worked closely and effectively with designers; engineers; testers and product owners; guiding a small team of 5 engineers as technical team lead to build experiences primarily with a mobile focus.

Highlights include:

- Built the preview that shows when you hover over links on Wikipedia
- Built the frontend for the Wikipedia mobile site to enable billions of people to experience Wikipedia on their mobile phones
- Optimised the mobile site to improve first paint for readers
- 2013: Empowered users to edit wikipedia by creating the first mobile editor and the first mobile web upload tool
- Saved users 450 terabytes of mobile data per year by lazy loading images
- Constructed REST APIs in Node.js to power Wikipedia experiences such as the official iOS and Android apps
- Provided new Wikipedia experiences by building Wikipedia nearby and page previews to improve discoverability of Wikipedia's content
- Refreshed the typography of the Wikipedia desktop site (learned alot about users and change)
- Mentored students via Google Code-in and Google Summer of Code so that they could become involved in the Wikimedia movement
- Prototyped new Wikipedia experiences including an progressive web app to inspire stakeholders of new opportunities with the latest web technologies (service worker and web push) to inform a new mobile wikipedia experience
- Reduced technical debt through involvement in UI, quality assurance and frontend standardisation initiatives to improve developer efficiency

Frontend engineer, Osmosoft, BT, London, UK (Sept 2008 - Feb 2012)

- Core developer on the open source projects TiddlyWiki, TiddlyWeb and TiddlySpace
- Lead developer on the award[1] winning website for The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA).
- Built internal tooling to support field telecommunications engineers access and share knowledge on common on-site problems

Software engineer, British Telecom (BT), Ipswich, UK (Sept 2007 - Sept 2008)

Built an internal social network networking site in Java and web technologies to connect thousands of employees across the globe.

Web developer (internship), Airbus, Bristol (Aug 2005 - Aug 2006)

During my Computer Science degree, I took a year to experience a corporate environment. I built web based tools to support a knowledge management team.

Key skills

JavaScript (expert)   **HTML (expert)**   **CSS (expert)**   **PHP (LAMP)**   **Python**   **Node.js**

Feel free to talk to me about:

- Mobile web development
- Libraries and frameworks such as LESS; jQuery; React.js and templating libraries e.g. Hogan/Mustache
- Experiences with modern JavaScript; progressive enhancement; the latest web standards; mobile first responsive design
- Open source and mentoring of volunteer contributors and [my contributions](#) to [openlibrary.org](#)
- Version control (Git/SVN), code review and Unix
- Agile; Kanban; skunkworks and Scrum

Education

- [The University of York, Heslington, York, England](#) [BSc Computer Science](#) (Oct 2003 - Jun 2007)
- [Southend High School for Boys, Southend , Essex, England](#) (Sept 1996 - July 2003)

Interests

[Travel](#) and [writing](#) are my main interests in life. I'm periodically learning foreign languages including Chinese, Spanish and French.

[1] BT was recognised in 2009 by the IGLCC as the most LGBTI friendly organisation in the world.

The latest HTML version of this CV is available at http://jdlrobson.com/dev/cv.html and is marked up with the hresume microformat. This cv is also available in pdf.

Note that I prefer initial contact via e-mail. Last updated October 2017

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