My Skillset

- C#, .NET 7/8, Blazor, MudBlazor
- MVC
- JavaScript/ES6+/jQuery
- Python
- React/NextJs experience on personal projects
- VueJs experience on personal and internal commercial projects
- Node.js/NPM
- MySQL
- HTML5, CSS3, LESS, SCSS
- Bootstrap 3, 4, 5
- Adobe Creative Suite
- Prototyping
- Domains
- Extensive Stakeholder and Client management
- Extensive experience of Windows OS'
- Extensive experience of all Windows packages
- Experience of UNIX / Linux including Terminal
- Understanding and experience of Networks
- The ability to think outside of the box and to pick things up very quickly.

Although these are the main languages and technologies that I am able to use, I am always eager to learn new ones whenever I can.

Education

South East Essex College (2009 - 2011)

BTEC National Diploma for IT Practitioners Cisco CCNA 1 Cisco CCNA 2

ITEC (2008 - 2009)

ICT Practitioner Level 2

References are available on request.

Experience & Development

I specialise in front-end UX/UI design, translating intricate designs into meticulously coded solutions. With a focus on responsive and cross-browser compatibility, I bring extensive experience in design and photo manipulation to craft various concepts within the field.

My strengths lie in my inquisitive mind, my problem solving abilities and a passion for pushing beyond my comfort zone. While specialising in front-end design, I am also adaptable, having explored technologies such as C# Blazor, .NET 7/8, MudBlazor, VueJs and React/NextJs.

I am also currently delving into Python for a personal side project. My relaxed yet driven personality, coupled with strong business acumen, ensures that my designs align with overarching commercial objectives.

I am eager to contribute my skills to innovative projects, combining creativity, technical finesse and a passion for all round quality design.

About Me

From an early age, my fascination with IT and technology has been a driving force in my life. I like to stay abreast of the latest insights and value the significance of continuous self-improvement, particularly as a devoted husband, and a father of two young children. This commitment to personal and professional growth motivates me to embrace new experiences and expand my knowledge.

Beyond the realms of technology, I am a dedicated car enthusiast, fuelling my passion by attending motor shows across the UK. Immersing myself in the intricacies of automotive design, I appreciate the meticulous effort invested in these. Outside of the fast-paced world of IT, I find joy in the precision of RC drifting and the exhilaration of motocross. I relish the learning process, always exploring new techniques.

Confident in my abilities yet open-minded, I actively seek opportunities to acquire new skills. Working within the dynamic landscape of IT and software is not just a profession for me; it's a source of genuine enjoyment and satisfaction. This passion fuels my commitment to delivering 100% effort in every task I undertake.

James Mills

Current Employment

Lontra LTD (August 2022 - Present)

Senior Front-end Designer / UX Engineer

I am currently responsible for overseeing the design and user experience of all Lontra's software web projects, including their respective creative direction, ensuring that interaction is made to be both easy to use and easy on the eye. Additionally, I explore the systems and contribute to the building of these on the front-end side, whilst gaining and providing feedback on the general function of the system to best serve both the end users and distribution networks.

I have enjoyed using new front-end technologies from the Microsoft stack such as Blazor and MAUI. These have helped shape the overall approach to the various software and application design and experience. I have always advocated for an easy to reach approach which has transferred into the department. After identifying the restrictions in the current technologies and gathering key insights, I found areas of improvement to the overall suite of applications and, even though each is unique in their own right, maintained familiarity throughout.

Working closely with the founder/CEO of the business, I have assisted in various contributions to some of their investor presentations, as well as helping to create digital materials surrounding the key components of the business. This translated into enhancing the brand of the business throughout Lontra Digital, which I developed across multiple form factors such as integrated machine HMIs (screen interface), a mobile application for European CE approval, a Developmental Test Cell and Service application to assist engineering, worldwide service agents and end-of-line manufacturing, and both a Partner and internal Intranet Portal; as well as initial exploration of an AI based Service Scheduler and various other helper wizard setups and test applications.

My intention was to further my career within Lontra and commit to the position long-term, unfortunately due to unforeseen events, the business has set out plans to enter administration before many of our projects could come to fruition.

Languages and technologies I have used within this position include:

Visual Studio 2022

• HTML5, CSS3

Some JavaScript

• GPT, Co-Pilot, Significant Gravitas

• GitHub

Fork

- Blazor
- MudBlazor
- C#, .NET 7/8
- MAUI
- Azure
 - Extensive use of Adobe XD, Photoshop, Proprietory Console Applications Illustrator, InDesign.
- Some use of Figma and After Effects
- UMAMI integration

Previous Employment

Ahead4 LTD (June 2015 - July 2022) Web Designer

At Ahead4, I was responsible for overseeing the design and development of all web projects and also for our CRM systems, including their respective updates and maintenance. In addition to this, as Head of Design, I was in charge of the creative direction of the websites and ensured that they were designed and built using the latest web trends and technologies where possible. This gave me a chance to explore the systems and allowed us to build the sites, and also to identify areas where we could improve what we were doing. Further to this, I ensured that, once built, the sites met Google's structured data policies and modern site standards.

I built brands and completed web presences for many businesses, large and small. I worked within a small team; ensuring projects were on track, as well as managing customer and business expectations. I was the first point of contact for the web department, so I understood the importance of building and maintaining good relationships. I found that being a technically minded person myself helped when planning the project out and also ensured that the client had a good understanding of what we would achieve from the project.

From time to time, I investigated new web technologies to discuss with the team in order to improve the workflow. As such, I brought in technologies that transformed the way the department ran. Not only did the department function more efficiently, but once the team got to grips with using these technologies, it spawned the creation of a new internal intranet system which controlled the domains, website pods from Kubernetes (launching and rolling updates to sites), and ticketing systems as well as a place to track leads and invoicing.

As with my previous role, I maintained a strict understanding and adherence to site and print branding to ensure everything was within guidelines.

Languages and technologies I used within this position included:

- Laravel
- Docker / Kubernetes / Jenkins
- Wordpress
 - Bootstrap 3 / 4 / 5
 - All Windows Packages
 - Extensive use of all Adobe Design and Creation packages
 - Google Adwords, Keywords and Analytics (inc integration)
- Grunt, NPM, Bower, Webpack, Mix • NodeJS, MySQL, Apache2 and Nginx
- HTML5, CSS, LESS, SASS
- VueJs Laravel
- JavaScript ES6/jQuery
- SourceTree / GitKraken
- Ensuring SEO compliance through strict Google Structured Data policies
- SSH, Putty, Linux
- Postal

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Senior Front-end Designer / UX Engineer

Previous Employment Cont.

InsureandGo LTD (June 2013 - June 2015) Web Designer

At InsureandGo, I was responsible for the design, build and maintenance of the websites and artworks for the UK, Australia, Ireland and the USA and quote processes for both core and aggregators. These include, but are not limited to, Argos, Debenhams, The Guardian, The Telegraph, Ford and Perrys.

I worked within a 2 person team assisting in the development of quote process sites, subbranded websites and also provided design expertise to aid the build and development of all web projects. I worked within the complete transformation of the core websites to bring them in line with modern web trends, as well as designing and building new sites from scratch. I was also a part of bringing in responsive mobile sites to enhance the experience of using both websites and quote projects.

To coincide with this, I maintained a strict understanding of site and print branding to ensure everything was kept presentable.

Languages and technologies I have used within this role include:

- MVC 3 and 4
- ASP .Net
- Some C#
- Wordpress Experience
- HTML5, CSS and pre-processors
- JavaScript / jQuery
- Centralised Source Control
- Extensive knowledge of all Windows Packages and workings
- Extensive use of all Adobe Design and Creation packages
- Extensive use of Visual Studio
- BrowserStack and PutsMail for testing