

Daniel Silverstone

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Language Skills: English (First Language), French (A-Level), German (GCSE, small business refresher course while at Zeus)

I am a homeowner, I have a car and full licence and I live with my partner.

Summary

My time in school, university, contract and permanent employment has given me a taste for challenge and a large set of skills applicable to work within the computer industry. Alongside a core knowledge of programming languages such as C, C++, Java and various assembly languages I have gained knowledge of several operating systems including Unix (Linux, Solaris, HP-UX, BSD) and Microsoft Windows NT. Through this experience I have learnt the value of writing generic reusable and particularly retargettable code. I understand the core protocols and structure of the Internet well, having used it for the past eight to ten years, and I contribute to the Open Source community in a growing number of areas. Running an ISP has been (and continues to be) a challenge every day, and one which I enjoy having to rise to.

Employment history

Pepperfish Ltd <<http://www.pepperfish.net/>>, Debian <<http://www.debian.org/>>: 2001 - Present

I am the managing director of, consultant and systems administrator for a small hosting ISP called Pepperfish which was set up by a group of enthusiasts. This gives me a lot of customer-facing experience, both by email and telephone. I have written many ISP-related tools which Pepperfish use, including the user-administration web user interface which is used by both Pepperfish systems administrators such as myself and customers alike. My Pepperfish work is done **entirely in my free time on evenings and weekends** and gives me something to continue improving my technical support and problem-solving skills.

My volunteer work with the Debian Project (The largest Open Source project in the world) is also related to my efforts with Pepperfish and has given me a lot of insight into how large ad-hoc projects can be managed effectively. I am part of the Debian project's archive management group and I maintain the packages for an entire programming language.

MIPS Technologies (UK) Ltd. <<http://www.mips.com>>: 2002 - Present

My work at MIPS has been varied and has given me a wide ranging set of experience in many areas of low level systems software. I have worked on projects ranging from as low a level as the implementation of a hard disc driver in the PROM monitor of a development board to as high a level as building a complex web application for the management of bills of materials for board manufacture. One large ongoing project I have been part of includes the porting of the PROM monitor software to MIPS' new systems. This involved the fitting of an abstraction layer to the PROM monitor code, essentially porting it to a virtual machine, and the creation of a "bottom end" to provide that virtual machine's interface to the monitor.

At MIPS I was also responsible for the majority of the systems administration tasks. I managed most of the systems in MIPS UK including a large number of Debian GNU/Linux boxes. I was also responsible for the maintainance of the network and general computer repairs.

Zeus Technology Ltd <<http://www.zeus.co.uk/>>: 2000 - 2002

I worked both on my own and with others, in the day-to-day running of CVS servers, Oracle databases, MySQL databases, Perforce servers and Bugzilla bug-tracking systems. I have extensive experience using Perl and Shell to write scripts in order to automate administration tasks (thus rendering them resilient to user error) and to ease maintainance of systems. With the large number of supported platforms, I learnt a lot more about portability and system abstraction at Zeus.

In the Technical Services section of the company I worked on Perl and PHP projects while in April of 2001, I moved from Technical Services into the Development section of the company. There I worked on the core webserver technology which is the Company's main product. Joining the development team required me to

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pick up and work with a very large (over 250,000 line) codebase within a reasonably short period of time.

I was involved in writing entirely new functionality sets for the Zeus Web Server product, including Request Rewrite support (equivalent to the Apache feature `mod_rewrite`). Work on the Zeus SNMP support modules has given me an insight into using others' code in a corporate environment. (We used `net-snmp` <<http://net-snmp.sourceforge.net/>> to develop Zeus' snmp code.)

CyberLife Technology Ltd <<http://www.creaturelabs.com/>>: 1998 - 2000

During my time at CyberLife, I worked on the core technologies used in future products, including work on the virtual-machines which drive the games, and the compilers used to work with them. My work involved profiling and optimisation work across several projects within the company, at an implementation and algorithmic level. My work also involved creating low-level libraries, and providing support for code written by programmers no longer with the company. I was involved in refactoring existing code, and considering the implications of altering core concepts within the technologies. Due to the range of systems our engine had to run on, I was involved in a lot of system abstraction and portability interface design.

Education history

University College London: First year of Computer Science with Cognitive Sciences MSci

After the first year, I decided that I would be better off in employment rather than education and so left to start work instead. During my time at UCL however, my courses included Java programming, the principles of operating system design and RISC computer architecture. I also covered cognitive sciences including child and general psychology. I achieved a first class result in my end-of-year examinations, and consistently achieved first class results in my coursework. I was awarded the Best-Of-Year in Computer Science.

King Edwards VI Camp Hill School for Boys

A Levels: Grade A - Maths, Physics, Computer Science, General Studies, Grade B - French

GCSEs: 10 GCSEs, A* - Maths, German, Chemistry, Computer Science. A - English Language & Literature, Biology, Physics, French, B - Geography.

Personal Interests

Before working with CyberLife Technology, I was a very active member of the online Creatures community. I worked on several projects in the open source domain, including a set of C++ libraries tackling small-scale persistence and maths problems commonly found in programs. I have since been invited to make these into a GNU ratified project, and as such, the GNU CommonC++ Libraries are now copyright the Free Software Foundation.

I work exclusively in UNIX (Linux, NetBSD, OpenBSD, HP-UX etc.) at home, which has lead to a full understanding of administration and programming issues related to UNIX-like operating systems and the provision of portability within software design. However I am capable of using and administering Windows based systems at a basic level. At university I was actively involved in the LBGT society. I am also heavily involved in the Lua community <<http://www.lua.org/>> including maintaining Debian GNU/Linux packages for Lua.

I enjoy challenges, and find that I work best when deeply engaged in the task at hand. I continually seek challenges in order to maintain an interest in what I do.

When relaxing, I enjoy reading; authors such as Zola, Isaac Asimov, Greg Bear, Douglas Adams, Terry Pratchett, Balzac, Joffo and J.R.R. Tolkien are amongst my favourites. I also enjoy listening to music, with my tastes ranging from Jarre through Rammstein to Chet Baker and Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan..

Up until I was forced to quit due to medical problems, I enjoyed Ice Skating, and was a very active fencer (From 1987 to 1998) and am a qualified coach in the Foil discipline.