

Curriculum Vitae

Bradley Whittington

Personal Information

Name	Bradley Whittington
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Current Occupation(s)

I am currently working for openVOICE (pty) ltd. as a “**Web Architect**”. I was hired to manage the online portfolio and strategy of openVOICE. I am responsible for making decisions around **development, design** and **user interface** of current, and future web based products. I regularly use **BZR/SVN, Python, PHP, MySQL, HTML, JavaScript, and CSS**, and develop site layouts/mockups using Inkscape and the GIMP. I regularly use Linux and Windows, but I am primarily a desktop Linux user.

Education/Qualifications

I followed a path in my undergraduate degree which allowed me to mix Science and Art subjects, since I am neither a hard scientist, nor a hard artist. I majored in **Computer Science** and **Industrial/Organisational Psychology**, so I will be equipped for the day that Computers in the workplace have emotions. Following my degree I pursued my interests in technologies which can be applied to improve rural and poor people's lives, working predominantly with connectivity issues in rural/semi-rural areas. **My skills and knowledge extend well beyond those covered in my formal education.**

Current	Reading an MSc since <i>January 2005</i> , at Rhodes University in Computer Science . Focus: Rural Telephony, Asterisk, Open Source Software
LPI	Obtained Linux Professional Insititute LPI 101 and LPI 102 Qualifications in <i>May 2005</i>
BSc (Hons)	Completed <i>2003</i> , at Rhodes University in Computer Science . Covering wireless communication technologies (IEEE 802.11), Security, Electronics. Published: Secure, extensible and heterogenic wireless networks: a model for community oriented wireless Internet in South Africa
BSc	Completed <i>2002</i> , at Rhodes University . <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Majors: Computer Science, Industrial Psychology• Other Subjects: Physics I, Maths I, Geography I, Electronics, Statistics
Matric / High School	Completed <i>1999</i> , at Durban High School , under the jursidiction of the Kwa-Zulu Natal Department of Education . Subjects: English, Afrikaans, Mathematics, General Science, Advanced Mathematics, Computer Studies Obtained University Exemption

Skills

Human Languages

English, Afrikaans, *very limited Xhosa and Zulu*

Teaching skills

- I have taught students numerous courses, most often relating to web technologies (HTML, CSS, RSS, searching etc.). Most recently I presented multiple courses in XHTML and CSS to a 4th year Journalism and New media students
- I have taught people basic computer literacy and skills during my MSc work in rural Eastern Cape
- I tutored Computer Science undergraduates for the duration of my 3rd and honours years at university

Project Management

- I have performed freelance web development work for clients spread over South Africa. As such, I am afforded a high level of responsibility and independence for the work that I complete.
- I have good communication skills, and I am talented at creating solid technical requirements based on verbal and written discussion with clients.
- I have good people skills, often balancing technical work with management of a project. I am a hard worker, function well under pressure, and find it easy to negotiate a middle ground between multiple stakeholders
- I constantly consider how to use technology to improve productivity on, and management of projects (for e.g. RCS, RTS, mailing lists, etc.)
- I have been intimately involved in growing an adhoc volunteer group to work with [schools in Grahamstown](#) to improve Grahamstown school's access to connectivity and computers.

Computer Languages

HTML, XHTML, XML, CSS, PHP, Javascript/ECMAScript, C++, JAVA, Visual C++, Pascal, Delphi, Mono/.Net C#, Perl, Bash, Python, Hugs, Macromedia Actionscript, MySQL

Software

(+) → (+++)

[Gimp\(+++\)](#), [Open Office\(++\)](#), [Inkscape\(+++\)](#), [Sodi Podi\(+\)](#), [Apache webserver\(+++\)](#), [Mplayer\(+++\)](#), [Gnome\(+++\)](#), [KDE\(+\)](#), [MS Office\(++\)](#), [Adobe Photoshop\(++\)](#), [Macromedia Flash\(++\)](#), [Mambo Open Source Server \(Content Management System\)\(+++\)](#), [Drupal CMS \(Content Management System\)\(+++\)](#), etc.

Operating Systems

- Linux (Ubuntu/Debian, Gentoo, Slackware, Red Hat/Fedora) for **5+** years - **Administrator, User, Developer**
- FreeBSD **2** years - **Administrator, User**
- Microsoft Windows (3.1/95/98/ME/2000/XP) for 4 years - **User/Administrator**
- MacOSX for 1 year - **User**
- Microsoft DOS for 2 years

Recent Experience

Junior Lecturer, Rhodes University school of Journalism and Media Studies (2007-01 to 2007-12)

I was responsible for teaching 4th year Journalism students focusing on New Media. I primarily taught web related skills, focusing on current Social trends on the Internet, as well as hard technical skills like HTML and CSS. While working as a Junior Lecturer in the New Media Lab (<http://nml.ru.ac.za>), at Rhodes University, I functioned as the Web Strategist for Highway Africa (<http://highwayafrica.ru.ac.za>) and it's child project, Highway Africa News Agency (HANA). I converted the static NML webpages to the Drupal CMS, and opened the gates for other members of the department to start engaging in online dialogue through Blogging. I built a complex, event oriented news site using Drupal to enable multi-media reporting on the National Arts Festival, which can be found at <http://cue.ru.ac.za>. I also performed minor development and maintainance work on many departmental web pages. I was independently contracted to manage the Rhodes University International Office website.

Geek Freedom League Web Developer (2006-06 to 2007-12)

I worked for the Geek Freedom League (Managed by Babelgeek technologies, commissioned by The Shuttleworth Foundation) to develop a custom Content and User management system using the Django web application framework. The Freedom League is a group of volunteers/enthusiasts who install open source software on people's computers. The Freedom League aims to increase awareness and usage of Open Source software.

My web application continues to assist members keep track of their activities, order more CDs, and keep up to date with news and information. By the end of the contract the application will be self managing (i.e. members will manage each other, review content, etc. based on their proven reliability using a peer rating system).

I have created a platform that is easy to use, simple in design, and functional on a wide variety of platforms (including mobile devices). I have employed Project management skills, Communication skills (to work with Babelgeek technologies electronically), Programming skills, and User interface design skills.

You can contact Babelgeek technologies:

Thomas Black (email: thomas@babelgeek.co.za)

Eric Andrews (email: eric@babelgeek.co.za)

Tel: **+27 (0) 21 975 5819**

Go Open Source

I installed, configured, designed, and managed all of the Go Open Source websites from March 2005 to June 2006 when the campaign ended. The Go Open Source campaign was effectively a partnership between the CSIR, Hewlett Packard, Canonical and The Shuttleworth foundation. The campaign was aimed at increasing awareness of Open Source Software among a broad cross section of South Africans. I managed all the content on the sites (around 100 pages), and acted as the gatekeeper between various organisations and the website, reviewing and publishing new content as requested. I also installed, configured and managed a variety of web based applications, including the Mambo content management system, MediaWiki wiki software, Moodle course management software, and Mailinglist software. Over the 2 year campaign the websites attracted around 1 million page views from around the world, with a large percentage originating in South Africa.

Prior to running the web face of the Go Open Source campaign I worked as the primary researcher for the television programme go_open. go_open was an initiative of the Go Open Source campaign to raise awareness of Open Source Software using television as a medium. The show consisted of 13 episodes, broadcast twice on SABC2, over a period of 1 year. I was in charge of researching stories, structuring episodes, background and fact checking stories/people, and organising interviews.

You can contact Emerging media communications (the Public and Media relations company responsible for Go Open Source):

Craig Rodney (craig@emarginmedia.co.za)

+27 11 792-4378

Other Work/Involvement

Teaching

During 2007 I held the position of Junior Lecturer in New Media, within the Department of Journalism at Rhodes University. I was responsible for teaching 4th year Journalism students about web technologies generally, and specific technologies in use today, namely XHTML, CSS, and Adobe/Macromedia Flash.

During my university career I was an active student and geek. I involved myself with teaching other students. I worked as a Tutor in the Computer Science department, and taught a number of short courses to students in both the Computer Science department, and the Journalism department. I have lectured directly on XHTML and web technologies, Open Source software, and Creative Commons. Indirectly, I have taught areas of Macromedia Flash to students completing their 4th year journalism specialisation, while working on two large Multimedia projects. I enjoy teaching, I am quite technical, but I can simplify technical problems to give people new to a field a solid grasp of the concepts involved.

Community Work

I have been an active member of the Rhodes University Computer Users Society (RUCUS), including one year spent on it's committee. I have voluntarily taught a number of courses to RUCUS members.

Since 2004 I have been actively involved in outreach work to schools in the Grahamstown district, culminating in my involvement in forming a student and staff group focusing on providing connectivity, skills, and computer resources to underprivileged schools. I started a Wiki to co-ordinate our efforts, and understand the problems we were facing (this is currently available and growing at <http://schools.coe.ru.ac.za>). Our most recent success has been the acquisition of 200 used computers from a large South African corporate for use in local schools.

My MSc project has involved using my skills and understanding of technology to improve the lives of Rural South Africans. I examined using wireless and voice over IP technology to provide cheap telecommunication to schools in the Dwesa region.

Soapbox

I am a generalist, highly flexible, a quick learner, and a social networker. I am meticulous and detailed in the work that I do. I have a large skill-set, and can focus on many concurrent tasks. I believe in empowering people, and I am happy to take the time to invest in skills transference. I enjoy the outdoors, and do not like spending an over enthusiastic amount of time indoors. I climb, hike and camp regularly. I am a fierce open source software, and open content advocate. I blog (not as often as I would like), and have ties with people in the open source, and creative commons movement in South Africa. My name Googles really well (as a testament to my understanding of current web technologies). I enjoy talking to people, either electronically or in person. I started to learn Xhosa, but the demands of my MSc overtook the time I had spare, it is a skill I think is invaluable in South Africa. I am a technology enthusiast, and I am not scared of learning something new. I would say my best skill is being a highly technical person who can interface effectively with non-technical people (i.e. I can speak geek, but I can also speak people).

I recently became a father, and committed family man. My son occupies every spare minute of my time, and continues to amaze me.