



Scot Hacker

Developer, ops/admin, technical writer, trainer.

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Objective / Qualifications

I love building the web, and have been creating innovative web applications since the early '90s. I'm fluent in multiple server- and client-side technologies, have taught courses on a wide range of tech subjects, and have done a ton of technical writing over the past two decades. I communicate clearly and effectively, love to hack, and still write code for fun at night.

While the bulk of my career has been working with journalists at UC Berkeley and the Center for Investigative Reporting, I've spent the past few years working on developer teams at Cal and the California College of Arts on complex portal/intranet projects. I'd love to continue working with an agile, forward-thinking team building fast, intelligently-designed web applications.

I love working with, crunching, and mashing up data. I'm passionate about **Python/Django** (and now have more than a decade of Django experience), spent a year on a **Rails** project, and put in my time with **Angular.js** as well. I'm well-versed in advanced **git**, **Agile** processes, and peer programming practices.

Career

Web Application Developer

California College of Arts (<http://cca.edu/>), September 2014 - Present

Rapid creation of Django-based systems supporting a wide range of CCA services for faculty, staff and students, including integration with LDAP, the Google and Workday APIs, and legacy systems. Emphasis on creating a student/staff portal unifying disparate systems into a unified user experience. Also doing integration work with the Moodle Learning Management System.

Senior Software Engineer

The Center for Investigative Reporting (<http://cironline.org/>), July 2013 - August 2014

Building out the next-generation public-facing web presence for CIR with an advanced Django-based CMS built with Armstrong. The system uses a complex weave of class-based inheritance structures to create a publishing system flexible enough to handle any array of media content types in any array of customizable template structures to provide journalists the flexibility they need to publish creatively. Managed storage, databases and hosting through Amazon Web Services. On the front end: Angular.js, Foundation, django-compressor, bower, and other modern front-end technologies contribute to the stack.

Senior Web Developer

Educational Technology Services (<http://ets.berkeley.edu/>), December 2011 - July 2013

Front-end specialist helping to build out the [CalCentral \(https://calcentral.berkeley.edu/\)](https://calcentral.berkeley.edu/) project (login required), which ties together dozens of disparate campus systems into a convenient and pleasing unified personal portal for students, faculty and staff at UC Berkeley. CalCentral is 100% Ajax/Javascript-driven on the front end, using Angular.js to consume JSON data generated by a Rails back-end.

Webmaster / Instructor

Knight Digital Media Center (<http://multimedia.journalism.berkeley.edu/>), November, 2008 - December 2011

Sole developer responsible for KDMC web presence. KDMC uses a three-framework stack: Django on the back-end (object-oriented/MVC Python), 960.gs CSS grid for layout/design, and JQuery for interactivity. System includes user registration and profiles, sophisticated tutorial publishing, integrated webcasting, a simple JSON API for story display, a custom "inner" CMS that simplifies multimedia project publishing for students, blogging, and more. I also wrote tutorials, ran the webcasts, and taught courses in web development and design, social media, advertising systems, WordPress management, the productivity/GTD system, and more. Administered and managed the school's CentOS web server and co-managed the school's technical infrastructure. Co-taught [workshop on census data visualization \(http://multimedia.journalism.berkeley.edu/workshops/39/\)](http://multimedia.journalism.berkeley.edu/workshops/39/), including Protovis and Google Charts. Built [interactive stories map system \(http://multimedia.journalism.berkeley.edu/stories/map\)](http://multimedia.journalism.berkeley.edu/stories/map).

Webmaster / Instructor

UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism (<http://journalism.berkeley.edu/>), November, 2001 - 2008

Sole webmaster / programmer / developer for the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. In addition to building and managing the school's public site and intranet, I also built student publishing systems, helped organize the school's multimedia training program, administered both Apple and Linux servers, taught web dev classes, functioned as backup sysadmin, and ran the webcasting operation. The first sites I built for the J-School were custom PHP/MySQL. We later rebuilt the main sites in Django. Converted numerous sites from Movable Type to WordPress. Migrated the school's many sites into a self-hosted WHM/cPanel server.

Creator / Webmaster

Bucketlist.org (<http://bucketlist.org>), 2010 - Present

Bucketlist is a Django-based site that lets users catalog, share, and annotate all the things they want to accomplish before they die. In under a year, Bucketlist has attracted almost 10,000 users and nearly a quarter million life goals. The site is a hobby project I use to practice Django and JQuery development skills.

Founder / Sysadmin

Birdhouse Hosting (<http://hosting.birdhouse.org/>), May, 2003 - Present

Founder and primary sysadmin at Birdhouse Web and Mail Hosting, which currently handles nearly 100 sites for journalists, non-profits, and artists. In addition to hosting, Birdhouse specializes in WordPress configuration and customization, mailing lists, CMS installation, comment and email spam solutions, and more. Wrote detailed [FAQs \(http://hosting.birdhouse.org/faqs/\)](http://hosting.birdhouse.org/faqs/) for customers. Built customized billing management and customer provisioning systems.

Creator / Webmaster

The Archive of Misheard Lyrics, October, 1997 - 2006

Founder and developer of humor site that allowed users to correlate real song lyrics with commonly misheard versions. The Archive has been featured on MTV, NPR, The New York Times, Yahoo!, Netscape, and numerous other publications, and maintained a traffic level of roughly 1,000,000

requests per month since 1998. The site's back-end was written from scratch in PHP/MySQL. I sold the site in 2006 and watched as the site's design and functionality was driven into the ground (kissthisguy.com - ugh).

Creator / Webmaster

The BeOS Tip Server (<http://www.betips.net/>), 1998 - 2005

Creator of site designed to archive user-level technical assistance for BeOS users. Originally conceived as a BeOS-as-web-server proof of concept, the site evolved into one of the most often-quoted sources of technical data in the BeOS user community. Technical background on the creation of betips.net can be read [here](http://www.betips.net/TrackerBase/) (<http://www.betips.net/TrackerBase/>).

Creator / Webmaster

The Birdhouse Arts Collective (<http://archive.birdhouse.org/>), June 1995 - Present

Founder, designer, and sole editor of Web-based arts organization. Provided free Web space, HTML, and design consultation to artists. The Collective was one of the first arts organizations on the web, and consistently pioneered the artistic use of nascent web technologies. The site is now mothballed for posterity, as an archive of the web's early days. Birdhouse was chosen by Internet Underground magazine as Site of the Month (April, 1996), and received accolades from numerous international publications.

Manager of Technical Communications

Adamation, Inc. (<http://www.adamation.com/>) September 2000 - June 2001

Responsible for all content on the Adamation corporate web site, including original writing, copy editing, review process, and technical production (HTML and web publishing). Created FAQ database publishing system. Wrote all documentation for personalStudio digital video editing application and managed translation of same into four additional languages. Supported end users, demonstrated personalStudio to potential buyers, built and maintained computers for Adamation staff.

Freelance Technology Journalist

April 1998 - September 2000

Wrote books and magazine / web columns on a freelance basis (see [Portfolio \(portfolio.html\)](#)), supported BeOS users, held the title of Senior Advisor at BeNews.com (now defunct), wrote freelance articles on various topics for industry insider publications such as [Cutter IT](http://cutter.com/) (<http://cutter.com/>) and others. Wrote a monthly BeOS column for Byte Magazine. Wrote white papers for internal use at Be, Inc. (now defunct). I also worked briefly as Editor-in-Chief of Linux Journal's then-new Be Magazine, though funding was pulled early.

Editor / Manager / Producer / Developer

Ziff-Davis Interactive & ZDNet, 1993 - 1998

Worked on various Ziff-Davis properties in Boston and San Francisco. Managed staff, curated aggregational content from the ZD magazine family for use on CompuServe, Prodigy, AOL, and Ziff's various web sites, including InternetUser. Worked closely with back-end production server teams and technologies, marketing, and upper management. Produced a news feed licensed to third parties. Front-end web work for InternetUser magazine. Ran the ZD3D section covering VRML. Researched, wrote, and produced Web-based multimedia projects and features on topics such as streaming audio and Web-based animation. Created and produced ZDNet's "Reviews at a Glance" collection. Pioneered the distribution of aggregated Ziff-Davis content in multimedia/hypertext Windows Help File format in pre-web days.

Writer and editor

Quarterly catalog, Small Press Distribution (<http://www.spdbooks.org/>), Berkeley, CA, 1991-92

Wrote and edited summary descriptions of poetry and literary titles for quarterly catalog. Assisted with graphical layout, scheduled, trained, and supervised volunteer proofreaders. Managed order fulfillment department.

Assistant Editor

Journal of Philosophy, University of California, Santa Cruz, 1989

Evaluated and edited submissions for student journal; assisted with layout and design.

Coordinator

Humanity Integrating Network Technologies, Santa Cruz, 1988

Volunteer program designed to promote youth involvement in international peace process via computer networks. Presented program to classes, organized participation of students on the system, drafted student proposals for presentation to international diplomats (for example at the Helsinki Summit of 1988). Assisted in composition and final edit of H.I.N.T. constitution.

Skills

Proficient or expert with:

- Django (object-oriented Python web application framework)
- SQL databases (Postgres, MySQL, SQLite)
- Version control with git and github
- Apache/Nginx/Gunicorn/Supervisord configuration and management
- Ansible deployment system
- Atom, SublimeText 2, TextMate, vim
- X/HTML/5, CSS, Javascript, JQuery, Python, PHP
- Unix command line, bash shell scripting
- WordPress (theme construction, customization, plugins, etc.)
- [Zurb Foundation \(http://foundation.zurb.com/\)](http://foundation.zurb.com/) and [Bootstrap \(http://getbootstrap.com/\)](http://getbootstrap.com/) (CSS grid layout systems)
- [Angular.js \(http://angularjs.org/\)](http://angularjs.org/) (now learning React)
- Ruby on Rails (now a bit rusty)
- Webcasting systems (Quicktime Streaming Server, WireCast) and video compression
- Installing, administering Linux and Mac servers
- Web hosting control panel maintenance and operation (cPanel/WHM)
- Organizational social media management
- Web hosting control panel systems (WHM/cPanel)
- Technical training: Excellent ability to explain complex technologies clearly
- Operating Systems: MacOS X, Linux, Windows, BeOS

I maintain a blog/database of my [open source software contributions \(http://software.birdhouse.org\)](http://software.birdhouse.org) (scripts and utilities).

Education

- University of California at Santa Cruz: B.A. in Philosophy; graduated June, 1989. Student representative to Board of Philosophy.
- Unix System Administration, UC Berkeley Extension, Jan-Dec. 2005. Received top marks and was invited to become a TA in shell course.

- [JavaScript Programming for the Web \(https://learnable.com/courses/javascript-programming-for-the-web-40/\)](https://learnable.com/courses/javascript-programming-for-the-web-40/): 25-hour online course.
- Mostly self-taught, with the help of countless books and online tutorials.
- For years I attended the [SXSW \(http://sxsw.com/\)](http://sxsw.com/) conference annually, and have been to [Djangocon \(http://djangocon.us/\)](http://djangocon.us/) several times. I've also done time at [ONA \(http://ona11.journalists.org/\)](http://ona11.journalists.org/), Comdex, MacWorld Developer's Conference, and many other seminars and conferences.

Honors

- Appeared multiple times on ZDTV's TV show "The Screen Savers," talking BeOS with [Leo LaPorte \(http://twit.tv/\)](http://twit.tv/) (1999-2001)
- Presented on Bucketlist at [April 2011 \(http://www.baychi.org/calendar/20110412/\)](http://www.baychi.org/calendar/20110412/) meeting of Bay Area Human-Computer Interaction group.
- Winner: [SFData Hackathon \(2009\) \(http://birdhouse.org/software/2009/11/django-treedata/\)](http://birdhouse.org/software/2009/11/django-treedata/) for building an interactive visualizer for San Francisco tree data.
- UC Berkeley Team Spot Award, July 2011. "The Spot Award is given to employees who make "significant contributions ... above and beyond normal performance expectations." The award text read, in part "Scot is the Swiss Army Knife of the KDMC. He's a programmer, a writer... "

Contact

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References available on request.

 [\(http://www.linkedin.com/in/scothacker\)](http://www.linkedin.com/in/scothacker)

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