

Sofian Benaissa

Developer/Analyst

I specialize in open source web development. I try to use my skills to benefit social movements and other folks working towards the future.

My experience with software is a love affair that started in high school but which I slowly grew into professionally. I was able to find a balance between my twin passions for creative expression and logic through programming.

Technology

Programming Languages

Bash; Java; Javascript; PHP; Python; SQL

Frameworks and CMS

Django; Drupal; pmWiki; Wordpress

Version Control Systems

Git; Subversion

Markup and layout

CSS; HTML; LaTeX; XML

Systems Administration

Aegir; Apache; MySQL; PHP; Redmine; Varnish; Debian GNU/Linux

Career History

February 2014 - present

Drupal developer, Collectif d'édition Sabotart

referencing - user experience - support

Sabotart was stuck with a Drupal website which they found incomprehensible, was accessible only half the time, and completely absent from search results. I corrected the technical problems and offered them regular technical support. The result is a much more functional site, that reliably comes up in the first page of results of web searches for one of their publications.

February - March 2014

Web Consultant, Smart Change Society

planning - requirements analysis

I got involved in the planning stages of a new web presence for this organisation while trying to fix their obsolete Drupal site. I helped to structure their ideas, via the drafting of requirements documents for their campaign websites and web infrastructure.

September 2009 - August 2013, Montréal, QC

Web developer, Koumbit.org

project management - training - development - administration - outreach

I joined Koumbit during a period of major organisational expansion. As a technical lead and project manager, I personally brought to fruition a dozen large, complex web projects, and contributed to

many more.

Koumbit also felt my impact on their financial management and their outreach. I notably produced a rigorous documentation of our daily financial management and I personally developed and gave two complete courses in PHP and Drupal programming

May 2013

Wordpress trainer, Entr'âmes

training - empowerment

Entr'âmes, a dance collective, wanted to go a little further with their blog. I spent a day giving them a crash course designed to empower them to autonomously pursue their web-based projects.

January - March 2012

Technical lead, think we must

conception - development - creative expression

We conceived this project in late 2011. It was a written collaborative work, published in real time to a gallery audience, with remote participation. The project came with a long list of functional and aesthetic requirements. To fulfill this mandate, I created a new presentation mode for Etherpad Lite.

July 2011

Drupal developer, Projet accompagnement solidarité Colombie

development - data migration - internationalisation

With PASC, we conceived an ambitious, trilingual website for activists and researchers, that we created together over a two-week sprint. I built: tools for migrating content from their former SPIP website, a contextual search via Apache Solr, and a homebrew tool for online action.

September 2009 - September 2010

Web developer, Wide Open Exposure

conception - development - ecommerce

I followed this documentary film producer throughout their very first year, and was able to offer support by preparing a proposal for an interactive media project, and by creating their promotional website and online store.

September 2007 - February 2010, Montréal, QC

Web & technical consultant, Réseau québécois des groupes écologistes

digital strategy - development - data migration

The communications coordinator at this environmental organisation asked me for help learning to update their website, managed with Dreamweaver. I later dove into their MS Access database, used to maintain and publish a directory of environmental organisations. Our

relationship culminated with the creation of a new, more coherent infrastructure based on Drupal and CiviCRM.

October 2008 - April 2009, Montréal, QC

Technical coordinator, Citizenshift/Parole citoyenne (National Film Board)

project management - development - internationalisation

When I first met with the coordinators of this bilingual NFB project, I realized they needed someone who not only understood the technologies they were working with, namely Drupal and Wordpress MU, but also a person who would be able to coordinate the efforts of multiple webmasters, contributors, and consultants. I successfully juggled these disparate responsibilities until the project's closure by the NFB.

September 2004 - April 2005, Ottawa, ON

Web consultant, Sierra Youth Coalition

accompaniment - training - digital strategy

After a bike trip in 2003, for which I built the website, SYC invited me to come on board as in house tech support. I trained the staff on Dreamweaver and FTP to allow them to manage their family of sites, and we worked together to elaborate a new web strategy for the organisation.

Education

Graduate Diploma in Computer Science
Concordia University, 2015 (expected)

Bachelor of Fine Arts
Concordia University, 2013

Languages

Fluent in both French and English.

Skills & Aptitudes

Technical

Data structure & algorithm analysis; End-user documentation; Project management; Source management & maintenance

Communications

Blogging; Meeting facilitation; Social media; Whisper translation

Administrative

Bookkeeping; Rights & responsibilities of boards