

Ben Schwartz

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Experience:

EchoDitto

Washington, D.C.

Intern (Summer 2005)

I interned at EchoDitto (echoditto.com) as a programmer for the Summer of 2005. EchoDitto is a web development company specializing in web journalism, political campaigning, and fundraising. Some of their notable sites that I was involved with are AARP's Rock The Vote, SEUI's Purple Ocean, Rosie O'Donnell's Blog, and World Food Programme's Walk the World. I was involved in many aspects of their business in addition to programming including planning, web journalism, and system administration. My work mostly focused on system administration programming however.

Key Projects:

Billing Software: I wrote software to manage how clients are to be billed for system resources by logging and analyzing a client's use of bandwidth, disk space, email services, and outside resources such as caching services. Also part of the program was an interface to allow other criteria to be plugged into the analysis. **Research and Development:** I wrote a series of scripts which regularly run site scrapes or access apis to log an array of data to be used to better focus EchoDitto's web sites and react to public interest (for instance when Bloggers took an interest in Cindy Sheehan's protest in Crawford TX, EchoDitto was able to jump and organize her official website). **Ticketing:** I worked on a program which allowed employees to submit requests of the system administrator. He could then complete the task, respond to the request, or pass the request on to someone else. **System Administration:** I worked on many of the system's services. Notably, I helped design a better way to deploy websites across EchoDitto's server cluster from the development stage to the live stage.

Industrial Strength Solutions

Williamsburg, Virginia

Contract Web Programmer (2004 – Present)

I have completed small jobs from ISS during breaks from school when I am visiting my family in Virginia. These jobs normally consist of developing a component for a larger site.

College of William and Mary Sharpe Program

Williamsburg, Virginia

Contract Web Designer and Programmer (Winter 2005/2006)

I worked for William and Mary, designing and coding an online application for The Sharpe Program (www.wm.edu/sharpe/application). The online application consists of student accounts, an application which can be returned to with said account, and an administrative back end to allow for aspects of the site to be updated and for the applications to be viewed or exported to a spread sheet.

College of William and Mary PLUS Program

Williamsburg, Virginia

Contract Web Designer and Programmer (Spring 2006)

I worked for William and Mary, designing and coding an online application for The PLUS Program (www.wm.edu/plus/application). The online application consists of student accounts, an application which can be returned to with said account, and an administrative back end to allow for aspects of the site to be updated and for the applications to be viewed or exported to a spread sheet.

Synthetic Pictures

Austin, Texas

Contract Web Designer and Programmer (Spring 2006)

I created an online content management system for Synthetic Pictures, a film production company. The site allows Synthetic workers to manage a collection of directors, display their biography, and include sample videos of their work. There is also a news real available for their use. All site updates can be completed through a backend. (www.syntheticpictures.com)

The Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation

Waco, Texas

Contract Web Designer and Programmer (Spring 2006)

I designed and put together a website for the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation to highlight the work they have done (www.rapoportfdn.org). I am currently writing a online proposal management system for them. This system allows grants to be applied for online, and includes forums and a tag based management system for the board members to sort, discuss, and decide on proposals to fund.

College of William and Mary James Monroe Scholar Program

Williamsburg, Virginia

Contract Web Designer and Programmer (Summer 2006)

I created an online proposal application for William & Mary's James Monroe Scholar Program. The application allows students to start an application, send out a request to a William & Mary Professor for a letter of recommendation, and work with their advisor on completing a proposal. The administrative section of this site allows for the review of proposals, provides tools to manage the appearance of the application and the questions asked in it., and archives past sets of proposals.

College of William and Mary Sharpe Program

Williamsburg, Virginia

Contract Web Designer and Programmer (Summer 2006)

I created a checkout and reservation system for the Sharpe Program's three vans which they loan out to students. This online reservation system allows students to check availability of the vans, and reserve one for a block of time. The system also allows for weekly reservations and management of their existing reservations.

Current Work:

College of William and Mary Charles Center

Williamsburg, Virginia

Contract Web Designer and Programmer (Fall 2006)

I am working on an online system to accomplish the task of Professor reviews. William and Mary requires laptops of all their students, and are interested in developing a new, online way to review Professors that provides more meaningful data. This new method will rely on student defined comments that are weighted based on how many students agree with them. Instead of a set list of questions regarding a professor, Students first describe their Professor with short descriptions, and then review all descriptions to agree or disagree with them.

The Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation

Waco, Texas

Contract Web Designer and Programmer (Summer - Fall 2006)

I am writing a online proposal management system for them. This system allows grants to be applied for online, and includes tag based management for the board members to sort, discuss, and decide on proposals to fund. The application takes organizations requesting grant money through a two phase proposal, and accepts periodic feedback from grant recipients. There are also tools to organize the viewing of proposals through tags and forums.

Education:

I have attended University of Texas at Austin from Fall 2002 through Fall 2005. My major is Engineering Undeclared, however I plan to switch to Computer Science and have been taking Computer Science classes since 2004.

Technical Skills:

I am proficient working with and administrating GNU/Linux (with experience in Red Hat, Gentoo, Suse, Debian, Kubuntu, and Slackware), Mac OSX, Apache1.3 and 2.0, Subversion, CVS, WebDav, and MySQL. I program in Java, C++, PHP, Perl, Ruby, and Javascript. I am proficient in web programming with PHP, MySQL, AJAX, and Javascript, and in web design with XHTML, XSL-T, and CSS. I specialize in Internet media and using AJAX to provide a user interface for my clients that is as responsive and feature rich as a desktop application. In Unix system administration, I have the most experience programming in Perl.