

Brett Hargrave Taylor

Born in: Lower Hutt, New Zealand

Marital Status: Married

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Website / Portfolio: <http://inner.geek.nz/>

CV Last Updated: 14 August 2019

Relevant past employment

// Full training and employment list at <https://nz.linkedin.com/in/glutnix>. References will be provided upon request.

1. Contract Front-End Web Developer

Quotable Value, on internal projects

Worked as front-end web developer and front-end build engineer on important internal legacy application. Upgraded libraries, implemented Vue.JS best practices such as routers, state management, ES2018, coding standards, while keeping legacy base intact.

February 2019 – August 2019

2. Creative Technologist

Clemenger BBDO, on various client and internal projects

Singlehandedly built beltedsurvivors.nz as generated SEO friendly SPA from provided design and assets using Nuxt.js in three weeks, along with doing all required devops for the project: setting up AWS S3 and CloudFront, Google Firebase and Cloud Functions.

November 2018 – February 2019

3. Senior Front-end Web Developer

Pushpay, on the Giving Product

Implemented and improved client-side React components in a C#.NET MVC monolith, improved accessibility awareness. Sole 100% remote worker in a multi-campus non-remote organization.

November 2016 – August 2018

4. Senior Front-end Web Developer

Area360 (was STQRY, now Ticketure)

Spearheaded new ticketing project's CMS using Laravel and Vue.js to create a Single Page Application. NPM, Gulp, Grunt, Makefile, SCSS, Redis, REST, ESLint, Webpack, Yarn.

November 2015 – November 2016

5 & 7. Head of Department for Diplomas of Web Development & Interactive Design

Wellington Campus, ACG Yoobee School of Design (was Natcoll, National College Design & Technology)

I did two separate stints at Yoobee. Managed team of two staff. Prepared and taught classes on Web and Interactive theory. Tutored students one-on-one when required. Marked assignments and provided feedback. Bash scripting for configuring Macs and Windows for PHP web development. Teaching Git, PHP MVC and Laravel Framework

November 2005 – March 2010,

June 2013 – November 2015

6 & 10. JavaScript Developer

Instinct Entertainment, Wellington

Two separate stints. Designed and implemented JS-based editing tools for creating components of web-based games for Gamefroot project (<http://www.gamefroot.com/>). Built using WordPress as a framework. Developed and maintained WordPress plugins. Experience with Agile as a team member. Implemented web deployment using Apache Ant via SVN and Git.

April 2001 – March 2003,

February 2011 – May 2013

8. Marketing Website Developer

Xero, Wellington

Website maintenance and development of the public marketing website. Coding implementation of new designs for promotions, sales content and advisors directory on proprietary web framework.

March 2010 – February 2011

9. Web Developer

3months.com, Wellington

Web application development in HTML 4.01, PHP 5 + Smarty + Postgres. Worked as part of a team of developers on a high profile government project. Completed by a team of 3 people in 9 weeks. Maintained an advanced server update script to push apps to staging or production servers.

August 2005 – November 2005

11. Web Developer

Development Resource Centre, Wellington (defunct)

In-house Web application development in XHTML, PHP + MySQL. Cross-browser Interaction Design and Programming in XHTML, CSS, JS, PHP. Administration of several wikis. Help-desk assistance.

March 2003 – August 2005

Technology, software and programming languages

// This section is actually here to placate recruitment agents, and as everyone's perceived scale is different, *let's talk about it!*

Operating Systems

Scale: Basic, Intermediate, Power User, SysOp

Mac OS X Power User
iOS Power User
Windows Power User
Unix Command Line (bash & zsh) Power User
Unix Desktop Environments Intermediate
Unix System Administration Intermediate

Server-side Technologies

Scale: Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Git Advanced
AWS (S3, CloudFront, EC2, Lambda) Intermediate
MySQL Database Intermediate
Apache Web Server Intermediate
Firebase / Google Cloud Intermediate
Redis Basic
PostgreSQL Database Basic
Docker Basic

Programming Languages & Libraries

Scale: Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

HTML Expert
JavaScript Advanced
Vue.js Advanced
Node.js Advanced
jQuery Advanced
CSS, Sass, SCSS Advanced
PHP Advanced
Bash Scripting Advanced
React Intermediate
ActionScript Intermediate
Automated Testing (Jest, Storybook) Intermediate
Webpack Intermediate

Server-side Frameworks

Scale: Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Nuxt.js Advanced
WordPress Advanced
Laravel Advanced
Discord.js Intermediate

Standards

Scale: Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Web Accessibility (WCAG, ARIA) Advanced
NZ e-Government Web Guidelines Advanced
WordPress Coding Guidelines Advanced
PHP PSR-1 and PSR-2 Advanced

My key skill strengths

- Designing and building useful and usable systems with gusto and an eye for detail and process.
- Explaining concepts and processes to others in a simple manner using plain English.
- Learning and understanding complex and advanced concepts quickly, through intuition and research.
- Spotting and solving intricate and detailed problems with systems.
- Testing & proving systems by checking all the details and implementing tools to do so.
- Editing text using correct English spelling and grammar.

My interests, & hobbies

- Communicating complicated things to those who really want to know more about them, and finding better methods of enabling this communication.
- Learning new technologies, software and techniques, especially where I might use them.
- Collecting and enjoying video games, board games, table-top roleplaying games, especially the indie games scene. Rules of games and game-spaces are fascinating to me.
- Geocaching, orienteering, tramping, and anything involving maps or navigation.
- Reading and listening to spoken word audio content, audiobooks and podcasts, especially science fiction.

My Career Thus Far as a Professional Geek

// A short essay. Judge my life and my ability with words.

I'm mostly a self-taught geek. I was programming in Basic on the Commodore 64 when I was 9 or 10. I got my first PC and for the first time seriously tinkered with programming in QBasic in 1993, then QuickBasic, Visual Basic 5. ran a dial-up bulletin-board system called TTOE BBS in Napier for just over a year, during which the Internet came to New Zealand, where I got my first taste in interface design: all the menu screens which distinguished one BBS from another were ANSI art which I had to draw myself. I ran TTOE till it was the second-last BBS in Hawkes Bay.

I first started learning HTML one school holiday in 1997 before I had Internet access – found some HTML tutorials on a magazine cover disc. When I got my first dial-up connection I made my own websites. I've been working with websites ever since. I started learning Flash when I found Flash 3 on a magazine cover disc.

Wanting to do Internet stuff professionally, I attended a course at NCMT (the now-defunct Carich Training Institute), and used this time to enhance my design and flash programming.

Wanting to do more advanced web pages, I picked up PHP extremely quickly during my spare time at Cybernomad, an internet café, and started Webfroot, a website where geeks from New Zealand and around the world would come and read news about internet stuff and programming and other random stuff. Carich called me back and I took a role as a Macromedia Flash animation teacher for four weeks, which I enjoyed thoroughly and got excellent student evaluations from.

Also during my spare time at Cybernomad, I created my first PHP scripts and published them online. I made a very popular (now unmaintained) script called Shoutbox, and started my blog.

I found my industry break with Instinct Entertainment, which my friends had just formed. I retained my internet café job during the nights to keep a steady income, until I was able to go full time with Instinct, doing PHP and Flash/ActionScript development.

After a few other jobs, I sought out work as a web teacher found employment at Natcoll (now ACG Yoobee School of Design) as an Interactive Multimedia tutor for the Diploma of Multimedia. At first I first taught Dreamweaver, XHTML, CSS, Flash and Director. I was promoted to Head of Department for Diplomas of Interactive Design and Web Development, where I had responsibilities for helping work with industry to keep the course curriculum we used relevant to their demands.

After holding down jobs at Natcoll, Xero, Instinct again and Natcoll again, I've always strived to stay up to date with the latest technologies, even if I couldn't use them in my day job. Up-skilling was very important: my ability to communicate design decisions and the logic around them so I could more effectively web design and interactive design was one of the most valuable things I have learned. The ability to make rational decisions about your websites layout, colour scheme, information architecture, usability and overall experience to help site visitors get closer what they need to get done is immensely important, and if I don't do my part, who will?

Communicating and helping students who regularly had no prior programming experience is also a testing time, especially dealing with international students where English is their second language. I believe that while programming is a complicated thing, it is innately learnable; it's just that some people find it more natural than others.

As a actively-practicing Christian, I did an internship with my church in 2010. I've also built different web apps to run social events: a team-based scavenger hunt, a bingo card system, and a family feud board. I proposed to my wife with a day long scavenger hunt around Wellington guided by an iPad app I wrote in Cordova (PhoneGap).

I believe community is an incredibly important part of peoples lives. I find being part of a loving, vibrant, active community is motivating and fulfilling.

While I haven't built much in Node.js yet, the impact it has had on the front-end developer has been a massive boon. NPM and Webpack have changed how front-end work is done, and for the best. While the JavaScript landscape can be pretty intimidating, the tools now available have made building full-scale desktop applications in JS a practical reality. I'm so excited to continually learn more about this stuff.

Currently, my main outside-of-work projects are my personal blog, experimenting with JavaScript, practicing drawing and illustration, learning about trends in web development, and enjoying my wife and four-year-old daughter.