

# Brett Hargrave Taylor

Gender: Male  
Born in: February 1981, Lower Hutt, New Zealand  
Marital Status: In a relationship, unmarried  
Drivers Licence: Learners Licence  
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Website / Portfolio: <http://inner.geek.nz/>

CV Last Updated: 20 January 2010



**References will be provided upon request.**

## Qualifications & formal education

### **National Certificate of Advanced Electronic Multimedia Level 4**

Class Award: "Best Web Design"  
National College of Multimedia and Technology  
Wellington, New Zealand  
**April 2000 – December 2000**

### **National Certificate of Business Computing**

Eastern Institute of Technology  
Napier, New Zealand  
**February 1999 – November 1999**

## Past employment

### **Campus Head of Department for Diplomas of Web Development & Interactive Design**

Natcoll, Wellington  
<http://www.natcoll.ac.nz/>  
Managed team of two staff. Prepared and taught classes on Web and Interactive theory. Tutored students one-on-one when required. Marked assessments left from previous tutor.  
**November 2005 – Present**

### **Lead Web Developer**

Instinct, Wellington  
<http://www.instinct.co.nz/>  
Created Interaction Design and Programming in HTML, JavaScript, CSS, Flash ActionScript, and PHP 4.2.3 + MySQL+ GD. MySQL DBMS Administrator roles. Administered live websites with Apache using secure shell account on Linux boxes.  
**April 2001 – March 2003**

### **Web Developer**

3months.com, Wellington  
<http://www.3months.com/>  
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. Implemented basic user forms in Plone.  
**August 2005 – November 2005**

### **Macromedia Flash Tutor**

Carich Computer Training, Wellington  
<http://www.carich.co.nz/>  
Taught Flash Animation to multimedia students. Compile and implement lesson plans. Assisted students with assignment work, including Flash and Dreamweaver. **4 Weeks during Q4 2001**

### **Web Developer**

Development Resource Centre, Wellington  
<http://www.dev-zone.org/>  
In-house Web application development in XHTML, PHP 4.1.2 + Smarty + MySQL. Cross-browser Interaction Design and Programming in XHTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP. Administration of several wikis. ICT Help-desk assistance.  
**March 2003 – August 2005**

### **Cyber Café Attendant**

Cybernomad Internet Café, Wellington  
Retail sales and cash handling. Maintained network and internet stability. Supplied rudimentary desktop support to customers. Improved consistency of branding. **February 2001 – December 2002**

### **Casual Computer Support Technician**

Opus International Consultants, Napier  
<http://www.opus.co.nz/>  
Implemented a Intranet Web design project. Word processing and data entry tasks. User Support with software and hardware.  
**November 1999 - March 2000**

# What technologies & software I pertain to know

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This section is here to placate recruitment agents, and as everyone's perceived scale is different, feel free to ignore it or ask me.

## Operating Systems

Scale: Basic, Intermediate, Power User, Sys. Admin

Windows .....	Power User
MacOSX .....	Power User
Linux Command Line .....	Intermediate
Unix .....	Intermediate
Linux Desktop Environments.....	Basic

## Standards

Scale: Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Web Standards + Accessibility .....	Advanced
NZ e-Goverment. Web Guidelines .....	Advanced

## Desktop Applications

Scale: Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Flash .....	Expert
Illustrator .....	Advanced
Fireworks.....	Advanced
Photoshop .....	Advanced
Word.....	Advanced
Excel.....	Advanced
Powerpoint .....	Advanced
Apple Keynote.....	Advanced
Dreamweaver.....	Advanced
Director.....	Intermediate

## Server-side Technologies

Scale: Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

Apache Web Server .....	Intermediate
MySQL Database .....	Intermediate
Version Control (Subversion, Git).....	Intermediate
PostgreSQL Database.....	Basic

## Server-side Software

Scale: Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

WordPress.....	Advanced
MediaWiki.....	Intermediate

## Programming Languages

Scale: Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Expert

XHTML.....	Expert
CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) .....	Advanced
PHP .....	Advanced
Flash & ActionScript .....	Advanced
JavaScript .....	Advanced
jQuery.....	Advanced
Smarty.....	Advanced
Processing & Arduino .....	Basic
Python .....	Basic
AppleScript .....	Basic
Unix Shell Scripting .....	Basic

# My skill strengths

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- Designing and building useful and usable systems with gusto and an eye for detail.
- Explaining concepts and processes to others in a simple manner using plain English.
- Learning and understanding helpful and useful information quickly, by intuition.
- 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 & knowledge

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- Communicating complicated things to those who really want to know more about them, and finding better methods of enabling this communication.
- Reading about and learning new technologies, software and techniques, especially where I might use them.
- Enjoying video and table games, especially the independent games scene. Rules of games and game-spaces are fascinating to me.
- Geocaching, orienteering, tramping, and anything involving maps or navigation.
- Amateur photography, documenting events publishing my best photos online.
- Reading and listening to spoken word audio content, especially science fiction, audiobooks and podcasts.

# My portfolio of past and present projects

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A portfolio of my past and present projects is available online at <http://inner.geek.nz/projects/>

# 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. I also started a personal weblog, which now lives at <http://inner.geek.nz>.

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.

In March 2003 I started at Dev-Zone (now Global Focus New Zealand) as a PHP Web Developer. I performed the webmaster role for (now merged with GFNZ) Global Education Centre. I took outsourced web designs and converted the raster images they provided to semantic, web-standards compliant XHTML.

After Dev-Zone I worked for 3months.com, a professional web development agency doing PHP and Smarty work on New Zealand Now in a team of two developers and a project manager. Even though I was only at 3months for (ironically) three months, I felt like I made a difference: among other things, I helped develop an ANT script to export from SVN and move it up to our staging or production servers without erasing important production files.

After a short three-month contract at 3months.com, I sought out work as a web teacher found employment at Natcoll Design Technology as an Interactive Multimedia tutor for the Diploma of Multimedia. I 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.

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 learned while at Natcoll. 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 one lacking in beginner web staff.

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.

The Creative Commons movement online is one that I firmly believe that contributing to a 'commons' of works that are freely available for others to use and create their own works is something that I can do to help better the global society. Creativity always builds on the past. I am anti software patents, pro open-source and pro legal sharing.

As a practicing Christian, I am part of Karori Baptist Church in Wellington, where I assist in running the night services, and overall contribute to a growing community of people. I believe community is incredibly important, and in this generation, we need more of it.

Currently, my main outside-of-work projects are my personal blog, experimenting with JavaScript, jQuery and Processing, and tinkering with electronics to make interesting things with my Arduino board, and spending time offline with my wonderful girlfriend.