

James Anthony Baker

look@jamesbaker.me.uk : email
<http://www.jamesbaker.me.uk> : www
<https://GitHub.com/JayboBaker> : git
<uk.linkedin.com/pub/james-baker/79/33b/460> : linkedin

Profile...

With over 6 year's commercial web development experience, I have an eye for detail, an analytical disposition and a desire for knowledge. I'm familiar with a wide range of development tools; Gulp/Grunt task-runners, SCSS and PostCSS, JS libraries like jQuery/React/Redux, that all aid in rapid and adaptable development. I'm well versed in current trends and enjoy keeping up to date with any industry best practices and philosophies. I put a high importance on producing quality, maintainable code through good naming conventions and automated tests.

I aspire to become a bleeding edge, full-stack Javascript developer and would enjoy the opportunity to work with IOT. I take responsibility for the full life cycle of my code, including concept, launch AND maintenance, while recognising the significance of good error-checking, cross-browser testing and security/best practices.

After a number of years living abroad I accredit my success to taking pride in my work and by always striving to be the best at what I do. I grasp new concepts quickly with a willingness to learn, be that company training or client requests. Through my varied work experiences I've gained strong interpersonal skills as well as a 'can do' attitude which has translated into positive contributions in team meetings and a productive work flow. I'm also ambitious and competitive which helps me to remain focused and motivated.

I'm ideally looking for a role at a forward thinking company that embraces new technologies, while providing me the opportunity to expand my skill-set and benefit the business. Being based in Haywards Heath, West Sussex I can easily commute to Brighton, Horsham or Crawley.

Skills...

CSS/HTML

- Mobile first, Atomic Design, Responsive and Adaptive web design, Style-guide Driven Development, TDD, BDD.
- Performance budget, BEM naming conventions,, KSS living style-guide, CSS3, SCSS, PostCSS. CSS3 animations
- Producing image Sprites, Icon font families, Retina images, providing responsive images (Picturefill polyfill), responsive SVG.
- Writing custom UI and personalising Bootstrap 3 template.
- Using semantic structure (microdata and RDFa) and website performance to aid SEO and mobile UX.
- Testing for and providing cross-browser solutions (using emulators, devices and virtual machines).

JS

- React/Redux, OOPJS, jQuery
- Node, NPM, Bower, Babel, Grunt, Gulp
- Working with RESTful APIs.
- Using Modernizr build tools to create an optimised version based on required functionality for codebase

PHP

- Using dotenv files, Composer, Laravel, XAMPP and MAMP
- Writing Wordpress plugins, creating ACF modules, implementing WPScan, updating WP best practices
- Secure user login with salted and hashed passwords.
- Prevent SQL Injection attacks with prepared SQL statements and validation/sanitisation functions.
- RDBMS use, Information Architecture and 'minimum privilege' management (PHPMyAdmin)

General

- Solid understanding of the principles of DRY, KISS, AJAX, Graceful Degradation, Progressive Enhancement, WC3 & Accessibility standards/compliance and best practices.
- Automated testing (PHPUnit, Karma/Jasmine JS Unit Testing, Gemini cross-browser visual regression, Sitespeed.io performance testing)
- Conducting User Testing/Guerilla testing in-house
- Version control using Git Hub through SourceTree and command line functions. Following Gitflow best practices. Producing repositories to use as dependancies. Using Semver versioning
- Working in an Agile/LEAN environment using JIRA Agile and Confluence. Story grooming, providing realistic estimations.
- Web hosting (AWS S3, Cpanel). SSL Certificates, Jenkins & AWS CI tools. Bash scripts. htaccess files. Google Analytics
- Experience developing in Windows and Unix environments.
- Legacy knowledge of ColdFusion, classic ASP/vbScript, VB, Access.
- Supporting team members and providing simple explanations to complex situations
- Strong work ethic and attention to detail.
- Working as part of a team using good communication skills and positive creative contributions.
- Working autonomously using self-motivation and a sense of responsibility.
- Meeting deadlines/targets through efficient time management and realistic estimates
- Effectively leading people in high pressure environments.

Achievements...

- Hosting 'Code Academies' on Website Performance and implementing a suite of performance measuring tools
- RSA Hack Day 2014 – Winning Team
- RSA Team Player of The Month – December
- Took part in a successful re-brand of a business which contributed to an increase in profits of 40%.
- Introduced a number of systems and procedures that helped staff maintain a good work life balance.
- Travelling the world self-financed through adaptability and hard work, and successfully returning to web development.

Employment History...

Front End Developer March 2015 – Current @ Crunch Accounting – Design & UX – Hove, UK

Working as part of the Design & UX department I work mainly on the lead generation team. This team is responsible for creating and maintaining Crunch's marketing website (<https://crunch.co.uk>) and their other lead gen products. During my time at Crunch I've been lucky to have the chance to broaden my skill-set and influence the processes and practices used in Front End Development at Crunch. I've hosted multiple 'Code Academy's' (Website Performance, Phoneygap, Wearable Technology) where I shared knowledge and conducted discussion forums. From these presentations Crunch adopted a suite of performance measuring tools that I implemented to measure the marketing sites performance and to create a performance budget for inclusion in the FED's workflow. I also implemented SCSS linting across the team to maintain our coding standards when creating our in-house themable framework. While at Crunch I suggested and implemented a responsive image solution to serve appropriately optimized images to users on different screen dimensions and device resolutions. Recently I moved to a different team responsible for developing accounting software. On this team I had the opportunity to follow my ambition of furthering my skills in Javascript by working with React/Redux/ES6.

Front End Developer Aug 2014 – Jan 2015 (Redundancy) @ RSA – Global Digital Technology – Horsham, UK

I was taken on-board as part of a new global development team, with the aim of centralising web development for RSA's global partners. My first project was to take a legacy system written in ASP.NET and provide a responsive re-skin with client-side validation. For this project we used Grunt to produce flat HTML files for later integration by a third party, to compile SASS, as a local server and to upload to our Amazon S3 test server. jQuery and Validate.js were used for form validation. We used Virtual Box, Genymotion and Xcode for our cross-browser/device testing which also included Accessibility ratings and HTML/CSS code validation before handing pages over to the QA testers. This project was conducted in an Agile fashion using JIRA and Confluence to keep track of tasks, defects and documentation. We conducted daily stand-ups to discuss tasks from the previous day, our tasks today and any blockers that prohibit our work flow. We would also conduct showcases to project sponsors, technical sessions with the integration company and retrospectives to discuss more efficient work methods. I became project lead after the project had started to take some pressure off of the Lead Developer. I was given MVT training in injecting live pages with JavaScript to manipulate current UI to find the most beneficial options for partners and users. I also won 2 awards in my short time at RSA. The first award was for being part of the winning team at the "Hack Day" event, which happened after I was there only a few weeks, where we created a fully functioning proof of concept using social media login details to aid the customer renewals process and increase conversions. The second was for Team Player of the Month, in December, which I was awarded for outstanding work and continuing professionalism during a difficult period in the team.

Skills learnt: Agile web development, working on projects with multiple developers and project sponsors, MVT, Grunt, Git.

Supervisor promoted to Restaurant Manager 2012 – May 2014 @ The Groove Train – Surfers Paradise, Australia

I worked at this busy 300 seat restaurant for over 2 years, where I was in charge of a team 40 staff. During this time I was sponsored by Groovetrain enabling me to stay in Australia longer than my working holiday visa allowed

Skills learnt: Leadership skills, staff training, conducting interviews, effective time/people management to meet targets and deadlines, dealing with stress.

Cocktail Bartender promoted to Bar Manager Nov 2010 – Oct 2011 @ TYC Bar/Gasoline Alley – Queenstown, NZ

I took a major role in a re-branding of the bar as it had struggled to appeal to a younger demographic in the previous winter seasons and subsequently profits for the winter period were up by over 40%.

Skills learnt: Brand redesign, maintaining an exceptional level of customer service and professionalism, discovering customers' preferences, keeping up to date with the latest trends.

Head waiter promoted to Assistant Manager Summer 2008-2010 @ Robinson Crusoe's Bar & Restaurant – Mallorca, Spain

Skills learnt: Delegating tasks effectively, using my initiative, diplomatically dealing with customers/staff mistakes/issues.

Bartender promoted to Head Waiter Summer 2007 @Foxy's Beach Bar & Restaurant – Mallorca, Spain

Skills learnt: Motivating staff, maintaining professional standards and brand image.

Bartender & Waiter Summer 2006 @ King's Arms Pub & Restaurant – Crete, Greece

Skills learnt: Interpersonal skills, dealing with the general public, handling difficult customers.

Ski Technician & Storage Monitor Winter 2005-2009 @ Edinger Sport & Mode – Söll, Austria

Skills learnt: Sales, answering technical queries in simplified terms and general customer service.

Bar & Restaurant Promoter Summer 2005 @ King's Arms Pub & Restaurant – Crete, Greece

Skills learnt: Maintaining customer relationships, realising customers' expectations, enlarging the customer base.

Freelance Web Developer/Webmaster Mar 2004 – May 2005 Self-employed – Sussex, UK

Working from home I maintained previous client's e-commerce websites, keeping the stock, graphics, adverts and menu options up to date.
Skills learnt: Effective time management, self-motivation.

Senior Developer Feb 2004 – Jul 2004 @ Spotty Cow Branding Ltd – Sussex, UK (Contractor)

Here I was contracted to work on a VB based automated stock trading system which involved parsing a financial advice page, collected in HTML, for information. Manipulation of a live Reuters XML stock feed. Writing complex algorithms using data collected and automatically trading results based on user preferences through an online stock broker's API. I was client liaison for the project.

Junior Developer promoted to Web Developer Sep 2000 – Jan 2004 @ Anagram Internet Services – Sussex, UK

In my three and a half years at Anagram I was given the opportunity to learn many aspects of bespoke website design. I was tutored by specialists in database manipulation (Access), Photoshop, ASP, ColdFusion, JavaScript and Visual Basic. I learnt about site design, indexing, optimising graphics for the web, optimising UI with minimal clicks, visually clean navigation, server side scripts, CSS, creating sites from digital mock-ups, landing pages, information architecture, debugging, error checking, icon/logo design, offering multiple browser solutions and monitoring load times. Other tasks were FTP uploading and the maintenance/adjustment of existing sites. After a year of small roles in different projects I was promoted to Web Developer. My projects were bespoke, database-driven e-commerce solutions with online shops, animated graphics, music, stock control systems, custom built back-end CMS, membership registration and email facilities.

Interests...

I love new technologies and staying up to date with any advances in science, nature and medicine. I have a passion for snowboarding and fishing. I enjoy going to the gym and playing football. I like to listen to music and attend music festivals when I have the time. I also enjoy playing poker with friends and to meet new people through work and leisure.

Education...

1989 – 19 95	Wilmington Primary School	Full UK Driving Licence (and transportation)
1995 – April 1997	Dartford Grammar School	Registered Manager of a Licensed Venue – Australia
April 1997 – 2000	Heathfield Community College	Responsible Service of Alcohol – Australia
GCSE		Food and Drink Handling Certificate – Australia
English, Maths, Sciences	4 A-C	Liquor Control Qualification – New Zealand
Art, R.E, French, Business	4 D-E	Spanish: Basic

References...

(Full contact details available on request)

Graham Holden	Development Lead, RSA – Global Digital Technology (UK)
Sam Campagna	Owner, The Groove Train Surfers Paradise (Australia)
Craig Smith	Director, Gasoline Alley (NZ)
Robin Douglas	Manager, Robinson Crusoe's (Spain)
Alex Edinger	Owner, Edinger Sport & Mode (Austria)
Simon Mander	Line Manager, Anagram Internet Services (UK)