

ANDREW CROOKSTON

Full Stack Web Developer and Craftsman with a passion for building modern, powerful and easy to use web applications.

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Vision

I have a vision, a goal, to help people and make their lives and work easier and more enjoyable. My way of doing this is by providing them with powerful and easy to use tools to inspire them, improve and simplify their work, and to have fun. I build great web based tools, applications and websites.

My vision is supported by my experience as a web developer and my proficiencies in product development, project management and designing user interfaces and experiences.

Mission

My mission is to use my experience from working with complex, traffic intensive websites. Built on large databases and search engines, using different technologies within B2B and B2C markets. I would be a great asset in any, but not exclusive, roles of CTO, Development/Product Manager or Lead Developer.

I'll bring a wide set of team orientated skills and my great personality to an organization; focusing on web development, search systems, user experience and user interfaces.

About me

I was born in Stockholm, Sweden in January of 1984. I am half Scottish and speak English and Swedish natively. I am ambitious, straightforward and I don't give up easily. People call me sympathetic, honest and responsible. I am outgoing and possess good communication skills.

My free time is spent reading and researching new web technology, finding design inspiration or business and marketing ideas.

I have a passion for photography and snowboarding but most of my time is spent playing Rugby, in which I hold a Swedish Championship gold and silver medal.

Technical Skills

Born 1984, I've been using computers since early 1990's with an online presence since 1997.

Core Concepts

- Project Management
- Agile Practices
- Search Engine Software
- User Experience/Interface Design
- Mobile Apps and Websites (iOS/Android)
- Web Crawling Techniques and Information Retrieval
- Large Databases and High Traffic Websites
- Separation of Structure, Behaviour, and Design (MVC)
- Cross-browser, cross-platform development
- Unobtrusive DOM Scripting
- W3C specifications compliant
- Search Engine Optimization
- Natural Language Processing

Languages

- HTML(5), CSS(3), XHTML, JavaScript, XML, SASS, HAML
- Excellent: PHP 4/5, Ruby on Rails, SQL
- Fair: Perl, Python, Java

Web APIs and Libraries

- Ruby on Rails, Sinatra, CodeIgniter, Drupal
- WordPress, OSCommerce, FrogCMS, RadiantCMS
- jQuery, Mootools, Appcelerator Titanium
- 960.gs, Blueprint, YUI, inuit

Tools & Software

- Boolware, Solr (Lucene), Sphinx, Elasticsearch
- MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB
- Redis, Memcached, Beanstalk
- Git, SVN
- Apache, Sinatra, Nginx
- FTP Servers, Clients
- Adobe Creative Suite
- Various editors and IDEs
- Mac OS X, Linux, Windows

Professional Experience

CTO / Development manager Stockholm, 2011.01 - Present
Blogg.se

Blogg.se is Sweden's largest blogging platform with over 1m accounts, 3m unique visitors and 44m page views per week.

A small company by numbers, my work ranges from project management to development, operations and administration.

Systems Developer Consultant Stockholm, 2010.09 - 2010.12
Athega AB

Athega specializes in delivering custom built systems and experts within web development and agile methodologies.

System Architect and Developer Stockholm, 2007.09 - 2010.08
Newsline Group

Newsline Group provides three of the leading brands for monitoring news, business interests, competitors etc. It hosts very large, realtime searchable databases with almost 300m news articles from 3000+ sources, 1m companies and 1.5m people.

Rebuilt and secured most of legacy systems. Architect behind entire system rebuild. Managed technical issues and support.

System Developer Stockholm, 2006.09 - 2007.08
The PAR Group

Developed Business Intelligence applications in Qlikview. Frontend and backend PHP developer with AJAX powered interfaces.

Web Developer Stockholm, 2005.02 - 2006.09
Bisnode AB

System Developer Stockholm, 2001 and 2003 - 2005
Affärsdata AB

Freelance Work **Atlas B2B** Online web shop selling spares, supplies and interiors for luxury yachts and residences.

Bonnier Family The largest publishing company in Scandinavia wanted a searchable photo and letter archive.

Solna Brass CMS powered website for a brass band. solnabrass.se

The Society of Architectural Conservation CMS powered website. sallskapet.nu

Certification and course work

EPiServer Developer Cert. April 2007 at EPiServer AB, Stockholm

Course in ASP.NET April 2007 at Cornerstone, Gothenburg

Course in Java programming November 2005 at Init AB, Stockholm

Military service 2003 - 2004 in the Swedish Navy

In Sweden military service used to be mandatory and done by most young adults, mine was in the Navy as a radio operator. During my 15 months of training I received basic military training and courses in, leadership, boatmanship and radio communication.

National Technology Program 2001 - 2003 at Cybergymnasiet

Equivalent Work Experience

While my educational goal is to earn a degree, my intention is to combine my equivalent work experience to date with the direction of my employer to finalize the area my degree would add the most value to us both.

Professional References

Patrick Zeits CTO, Newline Group

"Andrew is a responsible, driven and dedicated developer with a good eye for technology and excellent people skills. He attacks his assignments as a member of a team or as a self contained doer with the same passion. I would say that one of his key strengths is that whatever the situation he always manages to keep his eyes on the ball and does not stray from the goal regardless of what breaks, changes or in any other way adds complexity to the work at hand. Andrews calm, honest and straightforward way of communicating makes him very easy and pleasant to work with even in the most stressed out situations. I would without any hesitation recommend Andrew to anyone in the it-business."

Stefan Kanev Systems Developer, Newline Group

"Working with Andy was inspiring. When I joined Newline, he was tasked with maintaining and developing a legacy system, so badly written and designed, that it is definitely the worst I've seen. He had to traverse incredibly tangled spaghetti code and modify code that appeared unmodifiable. To me it seemed impossible. Yet, somehow he managed. His dedication was astounding. It was very impressive to watch him transform it into something a lot more workable in several months. I would recommend as a programmer Andrew without any doubt."

Peter Hellberg Systems Developer, Athega AB

"Andrew is a very good friend and one of those few people that actually get what being a system developer is all about; figuring out problems and coming up with solutions. I have had the opportunity to work with Andrew at two separate companies, and I hope to work with him again in the future."

Contact me for reference details. The endorsements are copied from LinkedIn.

Contact Information

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