

David Rowbory

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Profile

Having grown up loving computers and programming — Apple computers in particular — I discovered later that it was actually *people* who made computers interesting. Since I first encountered computers (aged 9) I've been helping others to use them effectively. I always want to know how something works, rather than just use it, and I get a thrill out of translating computer-speak into ordinary language. BBC computers with their excellent accessible manuals and then Apple computers in the 1990s with their human-friendly approach gave me a taste for good human-computer interaction.

As a programmer, I enjoy solving real-world problems with elegance. But most of the time I find myself helping ordinary people with computer problems, helping them find the right tool for their needs, and helping them get the most out of their interactions with computers. As an IT Manager I have done my best to make the frustrating world of Corporate Windows computing bearable and find innovative solutions for recurring difficulties. I love to think outside the box and help others outperform their expectations.

I have an insatiable appetite for learning about new technologies, but recognise that not everyone is like that. As a Young Journalist of the Year (1994) I also have a love of clear, compelling writing to communicate not only information but passion. As a salesperson (for Kodak) I have enjoyed sending many customers away with products that suit and delight them. Having lived, studied and helped people with computers in Europe and Africa, I enjoy relating to people of all ethnic backgrounds.

Skills

◆ User Support & Training

- I have considerable professional and informal experience teaching non-experts (in UK, Kenya, Nigeria) to understand and use computers to boost productivity and strengthen their business.
- I understand key underlying concepts and pick up new technologies & environments quickly.
- I enjoy writing clear, useful manuals and have an eye for good user interface design.
- I enjoy analysing difficult problems and finding innovative solutions.
- I'm a very strong team player; I thrive in a varied team environment; happy either to lead or follow leadership.

◆ IT Systems Management

- I have managed several networks of computers running a mixture of operating systems — Mac OS, Windows, Linux etc.
- I'm familiar with enterprise-level user support, business productivity systems and supporting rich media applications.

◆ Programming

- Over 20 years' experience; still enjoy learning new technologies and languages
- Familiar with Mac OS (Classic), OS X, Windows and UNIX operating systems, I have developed software using PHP, SQL, Java, Javascript, C/C++, XML, ML, HTML, CSS, HyperTalk/AppleScript and various BASICs.
- Experience in group and individual software projects and mentoring others

◆ Database Design & Engineering

- 6–16 years experience: MySQL/PHP, MS Access, Excel, HyperCard, FileMaker; varying domains
- Perceptive understanding of key conceptual foundations for good database design.

Education — Masters Level

- ◆ 2007-9 Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology, MA Translation Studies
- ◆ 1997-2000 University of Cambridge (Trinity Hall), MA Computer Science: 2.1

Education — Other

- ◆ 2003-5 International Christian College, Glasgow BA Theology
- ◆ 2000 SIL UK, Post-graduate linguistics course
- ◆ 1991-1997 The High School of Glasgow CSYS: 4 A grades, Higher: 7 A grades, S-grade: 8 grade 1

Experience

SEP 2005–JUL 2007

IT & MEDIA MANAGER, EPAPHRAS TRUST, GLASGOW

- ◆ General IT support, training, purchasing advice, network & infrastructure building
- ◆ Web site development (www.thethron.org and several associated sites)
- ◆ Pioneering online audio, podcasting & CD production, including automation & custom programming

FEB 2002–AUG 2003

IT MANAGER, IFES INTERNATIONAL OFFICE, OXFORD

- ◆ Helped streamline Financial IT needs; later took over whole office computer systems
- ◆ Developing custom databases and automated systems: Access, SQL Server 2000, The Raiser's Edge 7.5
- ◆ Systems administration: Windows 95-XP, NT4/2000 Server, Exchange Server 5.5, MS Office 97-XP
- ◆ Web design, multimedia CD creation

AUG–SEPT 1999

TAP: THE AUTOMATION PARTNERSHIP (CAMBRIDGE) LTD

- ◆ Software and documentation to integrate 3rd-party hardware into robotic system: Visual C++, COM, SourceSafe, Rational Rose (UML).

JUNE–JULY 1999

CAMBRIDGE COMPUTER SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTRE, SRI INT.

- ◆ GUI and file analysis tools and documentation developed using SGML, C++, Swing, Java, Solaris

Additionally I have 12 years of experience of business and systems analysis in the private and public sector through frequent contract work to analyse and implement a variety of database solutions for hospital departments and charities, as well as small to medium-scale businesses. These necessitated identifying with both business and technical personnel to facilitate inter-departmental understanding. Alongside formal employment I have many years of experience of IT helpdesk, consulting and troubleshooting. I have also worked in sales/demonstration for Kodak as a part-time job in 2004 (September–December) and in social work with teenagers.

Please email me for more details of individual projects and experience.

Referrals

Please contact me for references from recent work