

PHILIP NEAL : Technical Author

Address : Herne Hill, South London
Mobile : 07825684824
Home : 02070958667
Email : philipneal@hotmail.com
Website: <http://philipneal.net>

Summary

Technical author with excellent code-reading skills and a solid grasp of software engineering and computer science. Competent Python programmer. Documented much of the kernel of the Symbian operating system.

Buzzwords for recruiters

- Xmetal, Doxygen, Madcap Flare
- Agile
- DITA
- XML, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, DOM
- Perforce, SourceSafe, CVS, Subversion
- Windows Office, Rational, Visio
- Linux
- SQL
- C++, Java, Python

Employment history

2012-2015 Personal software project

I left Symbian/Nokia/Accenture in May 2012. After the privilege of working on the kernel of an operating system I decided to hold out for a job involving a comparable challenge, involving API documentation and new technology. I have spent my time working on a personal software project which is now complete.

The project is a database of Chinese historical pronunciation served as a Django/PHP web application. A suite of Python scripts convert ideographic historical dictionaries into Romanised phonetic notation and a Django/PHP appl serves a page for each of 26,000 characters giving the pronunciation from the earliest times to the present day. To the best of my knowledge nobody has done such a thing before. The technologies used include the main Python libraries, custom SQL queries, Django, PHP, HTML and CSS. It is intended to demonstrate my technical abilities and as a contribution to open source scholarship. The application is on my website and the code is on Github. The app and more information about it are at

philipneal.net
philipneal.net/eohan
philipneal.net/eohan/whatiseohan
philipneal.net/eohan/eohanproject

2006-2012 Symbian plc / Nokia plc / Accenture plc

The Symbian mobile phone operating system. I created developer documentation of C++ APIs and the associated data structures, initially working on libraries implementing SQL and XML frameworks, data persistence and data compression. I later produced reference documentation of the kernel code implementing low level device drivers, hardware adaptation interfaces, device connectivity and memory management: also wrote one chapter of a book on SQLite.

Samples of my work are at:

<http://philipneal.net/symbian/GUID-F1FDCFAD-2419-406A-956D-9543F9446FFB.html#GUID-F1FDCFAD-2419-406A-956D-9543F9446FFB>

<http://philipneal.net/symbian/GUID-3A30DA16-ECA8-5639-A9DC-6BE2AD55420B.html#GUID-3A30DA16-ECA8-5639-A9DC-6BE2AD55420B>

<http://philipneal.net/symbian/GUID-E3C7CB78-8A68-4FFA-BD00-04D27E67C1F3.html#GUID-E3C7CB78-8A68-4FFA-BD00-04D27E67C1F3>

Kernel technologies which I covered include

- USB, USB OTG
- Bluetooth
- Wireless LANs
- GPIO, SDIO and I2C (low-level I/O and internal buses)
- DMA (direct memory access)
- Interrupt handling and multi-threaded programming
- Memory management (shared chunks, data paging and flash memory)
- Resource management such as power management
- Porting the OS to new hardware platforms

2004-2005 Servista Ltd

Creators of an e-commerce system, used to resell utilities such as gas. I produced developer documentation of the APIs (Java), the database (Oracle) containing the business logic, and the database queries (PL/SQL).

2001-2003 SHL plc

The web operation of a company selling psychometric tests such as online aptitude tests. I documented Visual Basic APIs and database tables and wrote guides for site administrators and end users of the tests.

1999-2001 Cromwell Media / InterX plc

An engine for creating data-driven web sites, serving database content as auto-generated HTML pages: the technology behind several dot coms. I documented C APIs, GUIs, developer tools and user manuals. My writing helped turn the software into a saleable product.

1999-2012 Freelance translator

I am also a part time translator of French and German into English, specialising in technology and finance. This was my work between the jobs mentioned above.

1990-1999 Research assistant

Before a move into technical writing in 1999 I was a research assistant in natural language processing at UMIST and the universities of Lancaster and Essex.

Technical abilities

Computer languages. Though I am not a software developer I can read source code. I have a good working knowledge of C, C++, Java, JavaScript, Perl and Python.

Software development. I am familiar with the software lifecycle and the place of documentation within it and know how to read specification and design documents. I have worked in an Agile environment. I understand both object oriented software development and low level procedural code.

Technology. I have worked on most areas of information technology including databases, communications, web technologies, mobile internet and device drivers. I am not a computer scientist but I have a good general knowledge of the subject.

Publication. I know the standard tools for creating and publishing documentation such as Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat, FrameMaker, Robohelp and XML editors such as Doxygen, graphics tools including Visio, and the use of version control systems. I have experience of the DITA architecture for structuring information, and the use of web development technologies such as XML, HTML, CSS and DOM in documentation.

Communication. I enjoy working with technical people and have a track record of gaining their confidence and eliciting their knowledge with the minimum intrusion. I have worked in multinational companies and know how to write for an international audience. I have experience of analysing the documentation user's needs, liaising with areas such as QA and marketing, made occasional presentations to business partners and mentored trainers and new colleagues.

Professional membership

I am a member of the Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators.

Education

M.Sc., Information Technology, Aston University

D.Phil., German, Oxford University

B.A., Classics and Modern Languages, Oxford University

Hobbies and interests

Family history, crosswords, country walks, museum visits, computer programming