

Michael Sheldon

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Education

- **BEng Software Engineering.**
Graduate July 2008
University Of Wales, Aberystwyth.
Expected degree class: First.
- **A Levels.**
2002-2004
Garth Hill Technology College.
 - Mathematics
 - Further Mathematics
 - Information Communication Technology
 - Physics (AS)

Skills Summary

- Languages
 - Java - Learnt as a part of my degree (involving many practical projects). I've had experience working with J2SE, J2ME and J2EE (in a purely academic setting).
 - C - Developed drivers for the Player robotics framework to handle image processing tasks.
 - C++ - Developed an omnidirectional camera system for the Gazebo 3D robotics simulator.
 - Python - Worked on the Jokosher audio editor, working on the recording/playback system and the user interface.
 - PHP - Implemented customisations and optimized the Horde and Kolab groupware systems for the German government.
 - x86 Assembly Language - Wrote a very simple operating system as a learning project.
 - 68HC11 Assembly Language - Studied during my degree, implementing simple microcontroller based projects.
- Personal Skills
 - Team working - Improved my team working skills as a result of a team building course at the Aberdyfi centre.
 - Analytical skills - Developed naturally as a result of having to debug programs.

- Presentational skills - As part of my degree I've needed to give presentations on various technical topics, both individually and as part of a group. I've also given a technical presentation on SabreGL, a 3D python module I developed, at a Free software conference.
- German - I have a good, but not quite fluent understanding of German and spent a year living in Germany when working for Credativ GmbH.

Achievements

- Scholarship from the University Of Wales, Aberystwyth (examined in Mathematics and Computing)

Career Overview

- Freelance programming
2003 to 2004
Took on many small projects through the Rent-A-Coder service.
- Developer for the SphinxOS GNU/Linux distribution
2005
Created many utilities for making the user experience more intuitive.
- Developer/Consultant at Credativ GmbH
2006 to 2007
Worked on customising groupware software and developing mail server monitoring tools.

Dissertation

My undergraduate dissertation was on the topic of building a robotic guide-dog system for use by blind and partially sighted patients in hospital environments. The main component of this work was a sub-symbolic appearance based navigation system, using the Euclidean distance in image space between a given target image and the current camera image from an omnidirectional camera to provide orientation and localisation. In addition to the main control software I developed an omnidirectional camera simulator for the Gazebo 3D robotics simulation environment, which mimics the distorted images provided by a real omnidirectional camera, for testing purposes. The overall system was tested both in simulation and in a lab environment using a Pioneer 2DX, with a hemispherical mirror based omnidirectional camera.

Interests

- Acoustic guitar - I've taught myself to play the acoustic guitar and enjoy playing it when relaxing.
- Free software - I'm very interested in the political and philosophical reasons behind the Free software movement and use Free software almost exclusively on my own computers.
- Drawing - I enjoy both sketching on paper and working on digital images.
- Jogging, & walking - I enjoy both jogging and walking in the countryside, especially with friends.
- Cycling - I recently cycled from West Germany to England via Belgium and France whilst camping along the way.
- Languages - As well as having a reasonable understanding of German, I'm also attempting to learn Spanish and British Sign Language.

References

- Dr Frédéric Labrosse
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Supervisor for my final year dissertation project.
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distribution.