

Cameron Smith

Programmer and Systems Administrator

ccsmith@cetsi.com

Summary

I am a computer programmer and computer systems (Unix-like) administrator. I am experienced in web application design and development, workflow automation analysis and development, end-user training, and technical documentation.

For the past eight years, I have been developing public- and internal-facing web applications and command line tools for a company with more than 100 newspapers in BC and Washington state. I maintained a bank of Unix servers, providing services such as file sharing, mail, dns (BIND), firewalls, and authentication and authorization against an LDAP (Open Directory) directory.

During that time, I was the primary designer and developer of, among several other systems, an ad tracking system which provides the end-users (staff at the newspaper offices) with workflow and reporting tools to help speed the production cycle. The system is based on a perl back-end, communicating with MySQL and Progress databases, coupled with a web-based UI incorporating javascript for ajax and dynamic updating, and a purely css-based page design.

My duties also included the creation of tools and utilities to manage the environment and to interface with higher-level systems, applications and users. I am intimately familiar with bash (and sed and awk), and perl. As an exercise and research project, I have recently installed and configured an XCP (Xen Cloud Platform) system, with multiple VMs and Puppet and webmin installed on each.

Prior to that, as an independent consultant and programmer, I assisted companies, primarily printers and publishers, with workflow analysis, creation of automation systems and tools, and training. As a newspaper reporter, I developed the skills of listening and of being able to communicate effectively and concisely.

I strive for finely-tuned, problem-free systems, am tenacious in the pursuit of solutions to the inevitable problems, and take delight in encountering new technologies and new concepts.

Experience

Programmer at Black Press Group Inc

May 2004 - March 2013 (8 years 11 months)

Software development and support for over 100 community newspapers. I have created several key systems for ad tracking, electronic tearsheets, and user account payments. I administer a bank of Unix servers (Darwin/OS X, FreeBSD and GNU/Linux), including security, mail, DNS, networking, firewall and Open Directory (LDAP).

Notable systems for which I was the principal designer and developer:

AdTracker: internal web app; provides staff at all newspapers a graphical tool to exchange ads and monitor, in real time, the production-flow status of incoming and outgoing ads.

eTearsheets: public-facing web app; lets ad clients view and download pdf files of printed newspaper pages, for proof their ads ran as booked, reducing need for staff to “tearsheet” and mail the physical pages.

NewsMaster: Adobe InDesign extension; used to tag and extract complete news articles from InDesign files for upload to database and public-facing websites.

pages archive: scripts ,configuration; provide mechanism for newspapers to upload pdf files of newspaper pages and update databases for eTearsheets, AdTracker and others.

UserAccounts: perl modules; used by other systems for authentication and authorization, using either an Open Directory or sql database for backend user storage.

3 recommendations available upon request

Programmer and Trainer at Cutting Edge Technology Services, Inc.

1990 - 2004 (14 years)

Computer training and software development, including an early content management system. We worked and trained the staff of companies moving into Mac OS in prepress and print production. We also produced various production automation utilities, including MasterCat, a Userland Frontier-based catalogue automation system.

Notable clients included:

Auto Trader Publications (Coquitlam, BC), complete automation system, with sql backend, for data input and automated pagination of their multiple classified ad books, centred around QuarkXPress and Ad Layout System.

Raincoast Books (Vancouver, BC), complete automation system, with sql backend, for data input, automated pagination of their glossy book catalogues, and repurposing of data for web and other forms of publishing.

Bremerton Sun (Bremerton, WA), workflow automation, including development of ad tracking system and training in Ad Layout System.

North Shore News (North Vancouver, BC), workflow automation, including development of ad tracking system and training in Ad Layout System.

Barnacle Press (Salt Spring Island, BC), newspaper website creation and maintenance

Georgia Strait (Vancouver, BC), LA Magazine (Los Angeles, CA), training in Ad Layout System.

Reporter at Vancouver Sun

1988 - 1989 (1 year)

Helped to create and write for the High Tech section, researching and writing stories on new and emerging technologies and technology companies.

Publisher/Owner at Strathcona Publishing, Ltd.

1986 - 1987 (1 year)

Editor at Stony Plain Reporter

1984 - 1986 (2 years)

Skills & Expertise

Perl
HTML
CSS
SQL
JavaScript
Unix Operating Systems
Unix
OS X
bash
jQuery
DNS
Technical Documentation
Online Privacy
C programming
BIND9
Mail Server
Firewalls
Xen Cloud Platform
Drupal
End User Training
Unix Shell Scripting
Unix Security
Workflow Applications
News Writing
Linux
BSD

Education

Simon Fraser University

Management Skills in Advanced Technology, 1997 - 1998

Simon Fraser University

Computer Science, 1982 - 1984

University of Alberta

Computer Science, 1976 - 1978

Cameron Smith

Programmer and Systems Administrator

ccsmith@cetsi.com



3 people have recommended Cameron

"Cameron is a strong global thinker who applies his programming skills to overcoming operational inefficiencies and challenges. He is unafraid of venturing outside the status quo to move a company forward. His hard work and vision were both important assets for our team."

— **Cheryl Wirch-Ryckman**, *Director of Operations, New Media, Black Press Group Ltd*, managed Cameron indirectly at Black Press Group Inc

"I would recommend Cameron's work especially with respect to internet based information projects which improve a company's efficiency. He is an outside the box style thinker and problem solver. His work is excellent and his solutions stand the test of time and technological improvement."

— **Rick O'Connor**, *Chief Operating Officer, Black Press Group Ltd*, managed Cameron indirectly at Black Press Group Inc

"I hired Cameron Smith in 2004 to fit a position within the New Media department of Black Press. This position, programmer for Internet initiatives, had been a tough job to fill and Cameron's knowledge of the industry, combined with his skills in the area of print production automation made him a great fit. I've worked both side-by-side with, and as manager to, Cameron on a number of projects over the past 8 years. Cameron is involved in a variety of Internet-related projects for Black Press, tying together the print and business side of the community newspaper industry with the web side. Unlike some programmers I've worked with, Cameron understands the big picture of this business, and instills a high level of confidence in management that the details will be dealt with in a professional manner. Cameron has a skill set that is easily adaptable to any industry that is shifting from bricks and mortar to online initiatives and will bring a professional technical voice to the table to ensure your projects stay focused. I look forward to working with Cameron on more projects in the future, and would not hesitate to hire him."

— **David J Blair**, *Information Technology Manager, Black Press*, managed Cameron at Black Press Group Inc

[Contact Cameron on LinkedIn](#)