

# Darren Winsper

## Contact Details

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## Personal Details

Date of Birth: 05/01/1982

Nationality: British

Work Notice Period: 1 month

Driving License: Provisional

## Personal Statement

Last year, I was awarded a 2:1 honours degree in Computer Systems and Software Engineering from The University of York. The course had a solid background in essential language, architecture and hardware theory whilst also building practical foundations through group and individual projects. Summer placements at BT helped to put knowledge gained from the course into a useful commercial context. In addition, personal projects have allowed me to gain knowledge of languages and systems beyond those taught on the course.

Having been heavily involved with computers for the past four years, I do not neglect my other interests. Recent enrolment in the local paintball club and my continued participation in squash help me to 'blow off some steam' at the end of a long day or week. Work currently involves lots of travel to meet clients, which is giving me opportunities to visit other areas of the country not previously visited, specifically the area in and around Reading.

## Education

- *2000-2004: The University of York*  
*MEng (Hons) in Computer Systems and Software Engineering (2:1)*

### Modules

*4<sup>th</sup> Year* Group Project, Critical Systems, Constraint Programming, System Architectures, Adaptive and Learning Agents, Advanced Object-Oriented Design, Fourth Year Project.

*3<sup>rd</sup> Year* Interaction Design, Code Generation and Optimisation, Formal Specification of Software, Real Time Systems, Computer Graphics and Visualisation, Artificial Intelligence for Games, Third Year Project.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Year* Chips to Systems, Information Systems, Operating Systems, Logic Programming and Artificial Intelligence, Compiler Construction, Micro-Computer Project, System Specification and Design, Networks and Distributed Systems.

*1<sup>st</sup> Year* Introduction to Computer Systems, Principles of Programming, Introduction to Digital Circuit Design, Introduction to Computer Maths, Algorithms and Data Structures, Computer Architectures, Digital and Analogue Circuit Design, Maths for Computer Science

### Projects

The third and fourth year included projects in addition to normal modules. My third year project was to build a Java compiler that produced human-readable C, an interesting challenge. The fourth year project was to investigate the feasibility of re-implementing an existing real-time system in Real-Time Java, ultimately leading to a working prototype implementation.

- *1998-2000: Paston Sixth Form College, North Walsham*  
**A-level results:** Chemistry (A), Physics (B), Mathematics (B). **AS-level results:** Electronics (C)
- *1993-1998: North Walsham High School*  
**GCSE Results:** Information Technology (A), Mathematics (A), Science – Double Award (A), English (B), Information Technology (B), Geography (B), German (B), Religious Education (B), English Literature (C).

## Previous Employment

- *July 2004 - Present: Iceye Ltd, Pocklington*  
The job entails development of an electronic monitoring and tracking system to facilitate identification and resolution of the training needs of staff working in the early years sector. Working in the commercial sector has provided new insights into product development, including common pitfalls and how best to manage or prevent them. The role is also re-enforcing my understanding of PHP, relational databases and the development of web-based platforms on a large scale.
- *Summer 2003: BT Group Engineering Services, Adastral Park, Ipswich*  
Research work into automatic document categorization. This included broad-ranging research and analysis of currently available systems and other research in the field. I worked as part of a team to successfully implement a prototype in C# and .Net. Despite no previous knowledge of C#, experience of similar languages allowed quick familiarisation with the platform.
- *Summer 2002: BT Group Engineering Services, Adastral Park, Ipswich*  
The placement began with analysis work on embedded wireless products, which evolved into the design and initial implementation of multi-hop wireless communications protocol for very small embedded systems. The work gave me valuable experience working on systems with limited capabilities, giving first-hand insight into the trade-offs that are required for embedded systems.

## Computer Skills

<i>OSs</i>	I primarily use and develop in Linux, but am also a competent Windows / MS user.
<i>Programming Languages</i>	Fluent in PHP, C# and C++, having used all three in commercial environments and course/personal projects. Competent in C, Java, Python, Ada and Unix Shell Scripting. Some experience in Perl, Prolog and Z80 assembly.
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	Experienced in Microsoft Office and OpenOffice. Well versed in web design including (X)HTML, CSS, Javascript and PHP. Good understanding of relational databases, primarily MySQL. Familiar with Microsoft Access.

## Interests

<i>Film</i>	Member of the <i>York Student Cinema</i> committee for four years. My main contribution was the design and implementation of an automated web application for use by the cinema. The design allows anyone to take over the role of webmaster without having to redesign the website from scratch each term.
<i>Literature</i>	Presently, my reading is focussed on current affairs. An interest in science fiction, however, led to my joining the Douglas Adams Society at university. I was elected the society's treasurer in the second year and chairperson for the third year.
<i>Networking and Software</i>	Maintainer of our home network for three years, attempting to ensure good performance for all users, utilising traffic prioritising (QoS) to prevent bulk downloads affecting the interactivity of the Internet service provided. The network has since expanded into a VPN between several friends' households to facilitate secure communication. Software development consists of personal projects and contributions to some open source projects, including patches submitted for inclusion in Mozilla.

## Referees

*Mr. Jon Hammond* ([jon.hammond@bt.com](mailto:jon.hammond@bt.com))

Orion 4/10, Adastral Park, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP5 3RE

*Dr. Andy Wellings* ([andy@cs.york.ac.uk](mailto:andy@cs.york.ac.uk))

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