

Contact

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improve your life by getting better advice

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Benjamin-Newton Creative Works

wisdom of the greatest thinkers
plus *more experience and research*
minus *profit motive equals* *better advice*

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Portfolio upon request

website, emailed PDF, paperback, hardcover
now most books on Amazon.com

Web Design Proficiency

Webmaster Jobs

11.5 years

- project vision and concept planning
- content and design creation and updates
- software/script and hosting selection and installation/updating
- development of ideas and projects
- information organization and accessibility
- link and file maintenance and bug testing
- customer support and research

Design Challenges

Web Design Attributes

- simple layouts
- visually rich and attractive
- easy to navigate
- cross browser/platform
- structured
- accessible
- easily maintainable

High Impact Graphic Design

- graphics based theme
- cross-browser CSS 2 and 3 based theme
- interactive Flash for legacy support
- interactive content without Flash

Accessible Design

- webkit mobile (iPhone, Google Android, Palm Pre, etc.)
- opera mini
- text only
- combinations
- choice of multiple designs (with on the fly switcher)

Programming (Web Markup Languages)

Compatibility/Use of Technologies

- can be updated with open source tools
- minimal use of Javascript
- appropriate use of Flash for legacy support

- interactivity without Flash
- works well on mobile devices (webkit based)
- works well on mobile devices (opera mini based)
- Internet Explorer compatible without hacks

Specific HTML Dialect

- HTML 4 Strict
- XHTML Strict
- XHTML Mobile Profile
- WAP/WML

Pure CSS tricks

- dynamic menus
- pop up text
- rounded corners
- custom fonts embedding
- conditional formatting by screen size

OpenLaszlo

- Flash interactivity
- DHTML/AJAX animation
- drop down menus in Flash
- tree navigation in Flash
- coded with lzx language
- serverless deployment (SOLO)

Install and Customize

- JavaScript
- Flash with XML configuration files
- Java applet

Web Languages Authoring Tools

- Dreamweaver and Kompozer
- text editor like Bluefish or Smultron
- Stylemaster for style sheets

Desktop HTML Testing

- Internet Explorer
- Firefox
- Safari
- Chrome
- Opera

Mobile HTML Testing

- iPhone SDK Browser Simulator
- Google Android SDK Emulator
- Palm Mojo SDK Emulator
- Opera Mini Demo

PDFs Testing

- Adobe Reader
- Foxit Reader
- Sumatra
- Mac OS X Preview
- Evince
- Okular
- xpdf

Web Interactivity

Open Source Server Software

- installation
- maintenance
- updating

with Fantastico

Self Hosted Services

- galleries
- blogs
- content management system
- course management system

Software Titles

- Coppermine
- Word Press
- Drupal
- Moodle

Third Part Hosted Services

Also know how to use

- Yahoo! Groups
- Flickr
- Bebo
- Librarything

- Del.icio.us
- Beliefnet

Marketing

Linking

- how to submit content to Internet Archive
- how to choose Creative Commons Licenses
- how to manage Webring memberships
- how to submit websites to Open Directory
- how to create direct link to donating to one specific charity (most charities available)
- how to create direct links to buy books through Amazon.com

Web Site Branding

- themed websites
- customized error pages with logo
- bookmark icons of logo
- animated logos

General Website

Setup Tasks via cPanel

- domain name registration and renewal
- transfer of hosting
- subdomains
- parked domains
- addon domains
- file management
- get information from logs
- branded email accounts, webmail

Bug Reporting and Feature Requests

- Bugzilla (Mozilla)
- Launchpad (Ubuntu)
- IssueZilla (OpenOffice.org)

Rich Media Authoring Proficiency

also known as Multimedia

Specialty

communicating ideas through design on a budget with new tools

Digital Art

Digital Art Projects

- custom illustrations
- custom logos
- custom web graphics

Digital Art Techniques

- simulate real brushes and mediums
- photo and drawing vectorization
- use digital stylus

Multipurpose Art Techniques

- crop and rescale
- photoshop layer styles
- manually create knockouts
- scan through TWAIN
- auto paint

Multipurpose Art Tools

- Photoshop Elements
- iPhoto
- Keynote
- Painter
- Cararra Express
- Gimp

3D Techniques

- select, manually install 3d models
- clothe, pose 3d models
- create custom 3d landscapes
- create custom 3d logos

Vector Art Techniques

- soften drawings
- combine and divide shapes
- create regular shapes and patterns

Vector Art Tools

- Inkscape
- Xara Xtreme
- Toon Boom Studio Express

Digital Photography

Digital Photography Workflow

- take photos
- weed out bad ones
- improve photos
- select best for further use
- create web albums from photos
- create slideshows from photos
- incorporate select in designs

Photography Tools

- Sony 9MP prosumer model with CMOS sensor, pro lens, pro processor, 20x Zoom
- iPhoto
- Gimp

Flash and Video Authoring

Flash Design Projects

- animated logos
- animated photos
- interactive animations
- hyperlinked animations
- interactive navigation
- graphically rich
- make navigating large sites easier

Flash Design Attributes

- vectorized graphics
- high impact
- low bandwidth

Flash Authoring Tools

- Gimp for general purpose image editing
- Inkscape for drawing, re-vectorizing
- Toon Boom Studio Express drawing, for re-vectorizing, animation
- BBedit text editor and OpenLaszlo Compiler to assemble media

Sound Authoring

Sound Authoring Projects

- record sounds digitally
- make original arrangements of music
- record readings of my written works

Sound Authoring Tools

- Garageband for arrangement
- Apple Loops and Olympus Digital Voice Recorder for source sounds
- Quicktime Pro for converting to MP4, OGG Vorbis

Book Printing Skills

General Book Proficiency

successfully

- researched
- wrote
- created pictures
- formatted
- proofread

Text Book Statistics

- 40 books (not including 3rd Party books)
- 10,959 pages combined total
- novel/trade, pocket, and US letter sizes
- hardcover, paperback, large print, and e-book
- black and white
- custom text formatting
- typeset with LaTeX or HTMLdoc
- custom covers
- covers designed with Xara Xtreme, Toon Boom Studio Express, Pages, Gimp, and/or Inkscape

Picture Book Statistics

- 8 books
- 397 pages
- 322 unique pictures
- pictures entirely vector based
- pictures vectorized with Inkscape
- novel/trade and US letter sizes
- paperback and e-book
- full color
- layout done with Scribus
- custom covers
- covers designed with Xara Xtreme

Programming (Print Markup Languages)

LaTeX (general)

- structured
- footnotes
- margin notes
- quotations
- poetry
- custom footers and headers

- custom page size
- two-sided
- custom margins
- custom justification
- drop caps
- page breaks
- multiple source files
- other macro packages
- convert to Open Document via RTF with structure

LaTeX (direct to PDF specific)

- hyperlinked table of contents
- bookmarks
- links to web
- meta data
- color
- vector graphics
- interactive Flash embedding
- custom embedded and subset Postscript fonts

LaTeX to PDF Authoring Tools

- TeX Shop, Kile, and Winefish text editors
- TeX Live distribution
- pdftex compiler
- Ghostscript for PDF editing
- Adobe Reader

Converting LaTeX to Other Formats

- latex2rtf converter
- OpenOffice.org

Binding Skills

Can laser print and comb bind publications on my own with my own equipment

Book Marketing

Types of Publications

- logo
- business cards
- flyers
- brochures
- concept maps
- timelines

Publication Ideas

- self designed
- clear and clean design
- easily readable
- concise wording

Publication Design

- resolution independent
- bright and colorful
- large print

Matches website

- colors
- images
- styles

Handouts Tools

- Toon Boom Studio Express
- Pages (part of Apple iWork)

Linux and Mac OS X Command Line

- basic file management
- package installation and upgrades
- compile programs with make
- check out via subversion