

Josh S Jensen

Foresthill, CA

Phone: (email me a request)

josh@interactivepic.com

References available on my website:

<http://www.interactivepic.com>

Cover Letter

A short concise cover letter defeats my purpose. If you don't want to read it, then you don't want to know what makes me different than the rest... so please don't waste your time, or mine.

My goal is make a living doing what I do best. I prefer to work on a freelance/contract basis, but I am open to any level of employment as long as I work only from home and I can still take care of the dedicated clients who have counted on me for years. I can wear all hats when it comes to Internet Application and Website Development: design, programming, artwork, database access and management. The only thing I'm not good at is marketing. I do prefer a client provided design as it allows me to focus on functionality... but I can perform any or all of the above aspects of a project.

I have been working freelance for almost 6 years, and have posted samples and links to most of my work on my website (barring sensitive or private client projects). My website is my portfolio, feel free to contact any of my past clients for a reference.

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There have been many acronyms created, thrown around and then forgotten in the world of web development. I recently found out I am a "LAMP" developer (among others)... though I'd be the last to understand or care why technologies must be grouped together in these terms (XHTML, DHTML, AJAX... etc). When I am working on a project I use the best tools I have available to meet or exceed the goals of the client. If it's a tool I haven't used, and it's worth the time it takes to learn it... I do. Sometimes there are hurdles to overcome, sometimes there are better options that are out of reach and sometimes my experience overrides all and the path is clear despite the popular methods. Acronyms will come and go, what I do is find the solution to the problem in the most efficient and cost-effective manner I can.

SO, WHY ME? I can't answer that, as everyone has different expectations... but my clients LOVE my work and I always put something extra into it. I pay great attention to making applications that are user-friendly and intuitive. There are often many paths to the end goal, I consider all that I can and choose the best path for all considerations.

I am a problem solver by nature... puzzles, games, machinery and now software. I take it apart and put it back together in better condition than it was before I took it apart. I find programming to be a great outlet for this trait as every piece of software is like a piece of machinery. Ignition, compression and inertia is not much different than input, processing and display.

Labels, whether in life or business, only hinder progress. As far as I am concerned, anyone who uses the term "out of the box" is actually in the box. "Hard-working and motivated"... we all work harder than we should have to and most people are only as motivated as their paychecks can afford. You want motivation? I have been working for myself between 40 and 80 hours per week for almost 6 years and still haven't had a year I would consider to have "made a living". But I keep going, learning, developing my skills and tools and searching for work wherever I can get it... that's motivation!

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I started working in the home automation industry in 1997 with one goal, to be working from home by the turn of the millennium. I met that goal by developing engineering and sales documentation. My work saved the company 70% over their current supplier.

A few years later I set my sights on developing a piece of software I had been visualizing through my career... an online application for creating project documentation and meeting with the client. I learned Flash and the supporting scripts I needed to put my vision on the internet. The skills I developed have led me to build other interactive applications and websites for web developers, ski resorts, a movie studio and many businesses.

Software & Scripting Knowledge

I have samples and links to most of my work posted on my website.

- Adobe Flash Expert (7 years of experience)
- Adobe Creative Suite CS4:
 - Dreamweaver, Photoshop, Illustrator... etc.
- PHP, MySQL, XML, CSS, HTML & JS
- Camtasia Studio 6
- Microsoft Visio (10 years of experience)
- Microsoft Office (Excel more than most)
- D-Tools (for past employers)
- AutoCAD2000
- I use macro software for repetitive tasks and several useful programs I've picked up over the years.
- I've also started to work with Google Sketch-Up (3D Design Software) on a couple of projects.

Past Work Experience (prior to current career)

Computer Literacy:

Self-taught in specialized engineering, software development, CAD, documentation, graphic design, and website construction. I spend most of my time on a computer and teach myself what I need to when needed.

Office Equipment:

PC's and most peripherals, printers, plotters, all standard office equipment, including some networking. As before... what I need to when needed.

Electronics/Mechanical:

Creation of wiring schematics, installation instructions and component layout diagrams. Audio, video, and home theatre installation. Low-voltage wiring and distribution hubs. Auto stereo installation. Soldering and de-soldering of PCBs.

Contracting (Irrigation, Landscaping, Construction):

Design and installation of irrigation, landscape, planting, fences, decks, lighting, with some home repair and renovation experience. Specialized in low-volume irrigation solutions.

Warehouse/Supervision:

Over 7 years in warehousing experience, from stock to driving to management... I've done it all. I have managed one warehouse in the home automation industry, and I developed their inventory management and tracking system.

Heavy Equipment:

Forklifts (industrial, 4 to 8 ton, electric), front-load tractor/grader, trencher, roto-tiller, pallet jack...etc. I drove flatbed trucks (up to 30 feet, Class C), a dump truck and small pick-up/flatbeds for over four years.

Customer Service (Wholesale, Distribution, Retail):

Creation of custom marketing literature per customer requests. Order entry via computer, phone, fax, mail-order and face-to-face. Handled customer inquiries, troubleshooting and special orders. Designed irrigation systems on-the-counter for many retail customers.

Primary Skills

First and Foremost – Problem Solving
Adaptive – Especially with Learning Software
Programming – AS2, PHP, MySQL & JS
Internet Application Development
Graphic and Animation Design
Engineering & Project Documentation
Database Development
Process and Protocol Development

My Work Situation

I work only from home. I spent some time in the office environment, and learned that I do not belong there. I need privacy, peace and flexibility. I'll work as much as needed, and then some, but I am only able to do so because of my situation.

It's been tough, most people feel the need to see their employees. Technology makes my situation not only efficient but also cost-effective. If you're concerned about distraction, think about this: in the office I spent more time in useless meetings, dealing with office politics and helping others with little computer issues than I spent actually working. At home this is never an issue. Results are all that counts! If my output meets or exceeds your expectations... does it matter where it's done?

Employment History

Self Employed: 2003 to Present

Internet Application Programming and Design

Ultimate Control: San Jose, CA 2002 to 2003

(still an occasional client)

Home automation, networking, stereo, theatre, security and low voltage wiring solutions.

Digital Interiors: San Jose, CA 1997 to 2002

Home automation, networking, stereo, theatre, security and low voltage wiring solutions.

Backyard Craftsman: Dublin, CA 1996 to 1997

Landscaping, light construction and home renovation. (my first self-employment)

Pool & Elec. Products: Dublin, CA 1995 to 1996

Pool, spa and electrical supply warehouse.

Sprinkler Irrigation Specialists: Dublin, CA 91-95

Irrigation and landscape supply warehouse.

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Salary Requirements

I don't know what to tell you: 50k, 100k, 300 million... whatever I can get.

My advertised rate is \$40/hr.

Most of my projects are static bids, so I can make anywhere from \$20/hr to \$100/hr.

What I want is to be paid the maximum amount you are willing to pay for the work I produce.

But, above all else, I want to count on something. I want to buy a home for my wife and make her feel comfortable with the future. If you can provide a means to that end in our economy then I will give you the best of my best.

Work Status

US Citizen