

Chris Veness

— Consultancy in Information Design and Management —

Profile

Specialist in designing & managing large & complex information sets. Extensive experience of designing and developing database-sourced systems and websites with user-friendly interfaces.

Focus

Establishing information requirements and creating innovative solutions for a range of commercial and academic clients; co-ordinating the development of systems for managing information; designing appropriate data structures, APIs, and effective user interfaces for accessing information.

Strong analytical and design skills, focusing on operational and business requirements, backed up by solid technical expertise. Swift at picking up a brief, flexible and clear thinking in identifying and communicating effective solutions. Able to work independently and within teams, from concept to delivery. Committed to creating usable and useful applications that address client & user needs.

Platforms & tools

- o Node.js platform, principally with Koa.js framework
- o PHP platform, principally with FuelPHP framework
- o MySQL & MongoDB databases
- o HTML5, CSS, JavaScript ES2015+, JSON, XML, XSLT

Code samples: github.com/chrisveness

Education

BSc(Hons) Computing/Engineering, Warwick University, 1980.

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Example Projects:

- o Currently working on a project for **Cambridge University** designed to support reporting of human rights violations for NGOs and similar organisations (www.thewhistle.org), with a view to continued research in verification of such reporting. My role on this *Horizon 2020* project has been to develop the reporting platform (using web, SMS, and social media platforms), working within a loose and rapidly-evolving brief. Platform: Node.js, Koa.js, MongoDB.
- o In a long-standing working relationship with **Premier Education Group** (www.premier-education.com), who provide sports coaching for primary-school children, I designed and built their back-end management systems. From a starting-point of communication by e-mailed spreadsheets, I built online systems for managing courses & bookings, coach development programmes, financial management systems, and business reporting tools for this franchise business. Initially I built an online booking system, based on Google Maps, for parents to make bookings; later I worked with design agencies for the front-end development, including design & implementation of a REST API for intra-module comms. Platform: FuelPHP, MySQL.
- o Working with Winsland Consulting to create an API for supporting aviation security assessment tools, using RESTful principles; prototyping web-based tools for generic security assessment systems. Platform: Node.js, Koa.js, MySQL
- o Design & development of a website presenting the work of Victorian social cartoonist Marie Duval (www.marieduval.org) for the University of Chester, using Zoomify for high quality presentations of her illustrations. Platform: Node.js, Koa.js.
- o Development of the Boardcircle website (www.boardcircle.me), for non-exec directors, which includes Google Maps facilities. Platform: FuelPHP, MySQL.
- o For **Cardiff University**, development of a database-sourced website, '*British Fiction 1800–1829*' – a database of over 2,200 works written by 900 authors – with specially developed contextual search and browse facilities (www.british-fiction.cf.ac.uk). Also a *Database of Victorian Illustration*, for which I designed innovative 'faceted classification' browsing techniques in addition to regular search facilities, using Zoomify for interactive image viewing. I also developed a bi-lingual searchable website of medieval Welsh prose, generated from XML using XSL+PHP tools (www.rhyddiaithganoloesol.cf.ac.uk). Finally I created a web-based journal management system for the *Journal of Illustration Studies* (www.jois.cf.ac.uk). Platform: PHP.
- o Design & development of database-sourced website '*Sheffield Flood Claims Archive*' for **Sheffield Hallam University** containing 7,500 claims following the 1864 flood in Sheffield; this involved creating 'intelligent' contextual searching, and providing links to locations on contemporary maps (extra.shu.sc.uk/sfca). Another project involved designing a website presenting AHRC-funded research into early nineteenth-century women's writing (www.shu.ac.uk/corvey/CW3). Platform: PHP, MySQL.
- o Long-standing working relationship with **Belle Engineering**, (www.bellegroup.com) manufacturers of construction equipment, including: development of web site presenting information sourced from their manufacturing/accounting system, with ordering facilities, etc (in liaison with their marketing agency); and a wide range of management reporting and corporate information tools. Platform: ASP, MS-Access, Syspro ERP.
- o Use of XSLT for presenting XML *Aeronautical Information Publications* as HTML, and also

automated visualisation (using Visio & Office Automation) of database-sourced information concerning future Air Traffic Management technologies & architectures, for **Eurocontrol** in Brussels.

Previously:

For **Eurocontrol** in Brussels (1993-97) I revised divisional information management, through monitoring information requirements and proposing systems to improve existing administrative procedures. Systems I set-up included MS-Access databases for budgetary control and reporting (interfacing to the central Oracle/Financials accounting system) and a central database for recording membership of working groups.

Project manager, analyst, and designer for the **European Commission** in Brussels (1990-93), managing the creation of systems to gather and disseminate information about EC 'structural funding'.

- o directing the activities of the company sub-contracted for the £1½m development, co-ordinating the business analysis, and monitoring development
- o formulating overall system design; specifying the functionality, and designing easily usable systems that fulfilled the Commission's requirements for financial monitoring and economic evaluations
- o designing user interfaces for the Oracle master database, and a graphical Windows-based system.

Also '*Rapporteur*' (1993, 1994), writing evaluation reports on projects seeking EC funding within the ESPRIT R&D programme.

I helped with *system testing* of a human resource management system for **British**

- o Writing development standards and 'best practice' guide, advising/mentoring the development team, and developing information systems for **CAA/NATS**.

Telecom, Ipswich (1989), writing test specifications, and designing the test model.

At **Uniplex Ltd**, Hemel Hempstead (1988-89), I designed and implemented an interface between Uniplex's office automation suite and Oracle and Informix back-end databases. Development in C and E-SQL catered for differences between SQL versions.

For the **European Commission** in Luxembourg (1987-88) I gave *consultancy and technical support*; evaluating business/presentation graphics platforms (PC through mainframe), designing and running training courses.

I built a solid technical foundation as a *Programmer/Designer* at the **Computer Aided Design Centre** in Cambridge (1980-84), and at **Cambridge Graphics Ltd**, where I was one of the founding members (1984-87). These jobs gave me cross-platform experience of developing graphics applications in Fortran and user-interface development tools in C, including system design, coding and testing, liaising with customers, and writing and producing manuals.

Further information is available at

www.movable-type.co.uk