

JAMES KOPONEN

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Over 17 years of experience in web design and database development with a special emphasis on heavy database interaction via PHP and MySQL. Having an MA in English provides expert engagement in the marketing and professional aspects of web developing, thereby complementing the technical side.

WORK HISTORY

Web Programmer & Database Developer

JLK Designs – Pleasanton, CA

11/2016 – present

Create and manage custom-build WordPress sites and full backend database programming support for various clients around the United States. Clients range from educational support sites to printing companies to medical manufacturing supply companies. Custom programming done via PHP and JavaScript with databases being run on MySQL.

Senior Programmer & Database Developer

ThinkHR – Pleasanton, CA

09/2008 – 11/2016

Served as Senior Web Developer as ThinkHR grew from a small startup to a large HR outsourcing and training firm. Handled all programming and database reporting until teams could be grown and nurtured or outsourced to foreign countries—then collaborated to continue solid growth in-house. Daily projects utilized PHP, jQuery, HTML, Photoshop, AJAX, JSON, Rest APIs, GitHub, and heavy MySQL. As the system scaled, API ties were made to Salesforce, Google, Totango, Marketo, Tableau, and other analytics and reporting systems.

- Constructed the client entry system to hold and access over 290,000 questions & answers.
- Created the cross-indexed data system to allow for over 100,000 clients and their contacts.
- Built the internal question queue and answering center for all HR support staff (and customer support staff) to review and answer hundreds of HR questions per day.
- Designed and managed a data tracking and analysis system to provide detailed analysis and tracking of all client contact activity, along with data analytics on keywords and trends—to be folded into complex data-mining for targeting growth.

California State University East Bay

Developmental Writing Instructor

09/2008- 06/2009

- Taught freshmen students the essential elements in writing college-level essays, stressing a focus in critical thinking and analyzing assumptions
- Constructed classes that centered around reading published works and having students write on various assigned criteria
- Taught current MLA formatting techniques using proper research and citation strategies
- Focused on students finding a personal voice and developing essays to avoid plagiarism
- Designed and built a database-driven, web-based grading and lesson plan system

California State University East Bay

Intern Instructor

03/2008 – 06/2008

- Focused on assisting the professor in teaching assignments and providing feedback for student essays, with emphasis on better success in passing the Writing Skills Test
- Taught classes for periods when the head instructor was absent

EDUCATION

Master's in English

California State University, East Bay

9/2006 – 6/2009

Extended my investment in education to pursue and complete a master's degree in English with a 3.85 GPA. Studies included a year in a classroom teaching English composition at the university and grading student essays. Master's thesis available upon request.

Bachelor's in English

California State University, East Bay

9/2003 – 6/2006

Returned to college to advance my AA degree into a BA in English. Studies included creative writing and a focus on formal structured composition, allowing greater contributions in providing clients assistance with strong and properly formatted content.

SKILLS

- Strong experience with JavaScript, PHP, AJAX, & jQuery
- Database design and interfacing
- Website and portal monitoring
- Data privacy applications
- AWS implementation
- SEO coding and strategy
- Expert in Adobe Creative Suite
- Brand development
- Product templates
- Data backup and retrieval
- Technical specifications creation
- Coding and modularization
- Website maintenance
- Expert in JSON and XML

MISCELLANEOUS

When asked about particular strengths, I illustrate one key attribute over all others: I learn and adapt fast. Since 2001, there have been over dozens of key evolving languages and frameworks, with many others becoming deprecated and/or obsolete. I have found that the only way to be effective and efficient is to adapt my knowledge in an expedited manner, thereby allowing clients and employers limitless potential in matching today's evolving needs. And this approach and methodology have allowed great things to take place.

PUBLICATIONS

- 3 mystery dinner shows written and performed (in California, Alaska, and Florida)
- 1 commissioned translation of Middle French poetry into Modern English
- 1 commissioned libretto written and performed twice
- 100-page Master's Thesis (available for download)

AND FINALLY

Who I Am

Outside of the office, I maintain an active lifestyle, dipping my thumb into many pies. For the social aspect, I may be signed up for evening rehearsals in volunteer musical theatre, or a murder mystery dinner show on occasion. I consider world travel an ever-rewarding investment and have used vacations to explore over 15 different countries—including my ancestral homeland of Finland back in 2016. I also now find myself in possession of a full green screen studio setup, which is handy for various hobbies and delving into Hollywood studio effects. Certainly, it's rare that anyone needs a video of lightning bolts extending from his or her fingertips, but if the need arises, it's nice to know that a solution is ready to go.

Other activities involve building my own ebike (and taking 50-mile bike rides) along with building a 3D printer to create custom replacement parts (e.g., a new knob for a washing machine).

I'm an avid NFL fan, but perhaps it's in my best interest not to name my favorite team.

Karaoke Level: Advanced –with a heavy emphasis on Elvis hits.