



*Hi. My name is Brad Abrahams.*

I am a freelance Bristol-based frontend web developer with over 10 years of experience who is passionate about using appropriate technologies to create a user experience which is accessible, intuitive and attractive.

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## Skills

### HTML and CSS

First and foremost, I am a frontend developer. I have excellent knowledge of HTML and CSS, and keep up-to-date with emerging standards. I like to use CSS preprocessors such as LESS and SASS, but understand the importance of not getting carried away. I have learnt the hard way that selector efficiency is of actual importance, especially on mobile.

I am well-versed in using package management tools like npm and build systems such as Gulp (<http://gulpjs.com/>).

### JavaScript

I have excellent knowledge of JavaScript and modern frameworks such as React with Flux / Redux. CommonJS and ES6 are good things, and with Babel and other tools they are ready to use today. Being a frontend developer in modern times is often synonymous with "JavaScript developer".

Of course, I am also well-versed in "vanilla" JavaScript (and find that jQuery still has a time and a place).

### Python, Django and Flask

I also have experience of back-end development, particularly with regards to integrating the frontend side of things. I favour Python and Django, having used these two technologies (as well as the Jinja templating language) for a number of years both at Playfire and Streetlife. I love how fast concepts can be turned into working applications using this combination of technologies.

That said, I am a fast learner and am open to learning how to integrate my frontend code with whatever backend technologies are in use.

### Responsive design

Responsiveness for mobile is no longer optional. I am comfortable not only ensuring that designs respond well to different screen sizes and resolutions, but also ensuring that sites load fast on mobile devices. Chrome DevTools' network tab coupled with ADB for debugging rendering bottlenecks on mobile devices is something that I find to be incredibly useful at times.

## Automated testing

This is an important subject these days. Whether we're talking unit tests for JavaScript or an integrated solution using Selenium, I have experience with both and know when each is appropriate. There is a time and a place for both (and that may not be every project).

## Last but not least...

I have a passion for what I do. That's pretty important! I spend my free time working on personal projects and contributing to open-source projects that I use because, well, learning is fun. Check out some of my favourite personal projects on GitHub.

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## Relevant Employment

### Freelance 2016 - Present

I currently work on a freelance basis. I am based in Spike Island, Bristol, just a short walk from the city centre. I am also available to work remotely, be that in Bristol, London, or a different country. If you feel that I could be a good fit for your project then please get in touch.

### Streetlife 2011 - 2016

Streetlife is a local social network that allows neighbours to discuss local issues and help each other out. It is based in Leicester Square, London. I worked at Streetlife as a Software Engineer for over four years (I was their sole frontend developer).

### Playfire 2009 - 2011

Playfire was a VC-backed (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Playfire>) social networking startup aimed at gamers, based in the centre of London (Soho and then Covent Garden). I worked for Playfire full-time as their sole frontend developer.

### Rockpool 2006 - 2009

I worked for one of Bristol's leading digital agencies, Rockpool Digital. I was the second employee and focussed on the frontend, keeping on top of industry standards, creating a QA checklist, and ensuring that our builds were of a high quality.

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## Education

### University of Portsmouth

2003 - 2006

BA (Hons) Design for Interactive Media (2:1)

### Somervale Sixth Form

2001-2003

A-levels in:

Media Studies (A)

English (C)

ICT (D)

# Somervale Comprehensive School

1996 - 2001

GCSEs in:

English Language (A)

English Literature (A\*)

Maths (A)

Science Double Award (AA)

Graphic Technology (A)

History (B)

Religious Education (A\*)

Art (D)

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## Other Skills and Interests

I have been working in the web industry for a number of years now, and understand the realities of working both in a studio and as part of a start-up. I am able to work effectively as part of a team, communicating ideas and sharing knowledge; equally, I am able to work unassisted and get the work done. I always do the best job that I can, but understand that there are deadlines to meet and the need to get things released and iterated upon quickly. I am a fast learner and quick to pick up new skills. I like to think that I approach challenges creatively, thinking of the best solution for a given problem. I am constantly looking for ways to improve my skills, both technical and personal, and read industry blogs.

My job is important to me, but I have a life outside of work. Music is a large part of my life, and I listen to everything from hip-hop to jungle to classical. I enjoy reading and am a fan of Irvine Welsh and Bret Easton Ellis, amongst others. Food and restaurants are a passion of mine; sometimes I'm as happy with a dirty burger oozing with fake American cheese as I am with a Michelin-starred tasting menu.

I also spend time outside of work on personal web projects (home automation and home theatre projects being prime examples). I feel that it is important to remember why I got into web development in the first place, and to spend time working on projects that inspire me.

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## Contact

Email is the best way of contacting me.

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- [Website](http://www.bradabrahams.co.uk/) (http://www.bradabrahams.co.uk/)
- [GitHub](https://github.com/mrkipling) (https://github.com/mrkipling)
- [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/in/bradley-abrahams-a6a87324) (https://www.linkedin.com/in/bradley-abrahams-a6a87324)
- [Twitter](https://twitter.com/mrkipling) (https://twitter.com/mrkipling)

"I see Brad as frontend SAS."

*Kieran O'Neill, CEO, Playfire.com* (<https://www.playfire.com/>)

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