

JAMES KOPONEN

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Over 11 years of experience in graphic design, web design and database development with a special emphasis on the Adobe Creative Suite, React, JavaScript, Typescript, as well as database interaction via APIs, PHP and MySQL. Outstanding knowledge of HTML and CSS. Complementing all this in an MA in English which provides expert engagement in the marketing and professional aspects of web developing, including teaching skills to mentor and train peers or subordinates.

Specialized skills include over a decade of experience with Adobe Photoshop, Premiere, After Effects, and Illustrator, incorporating any cutting edge features such as AI artwork, always updating and staying on top of Beta updates.

WORK HISTORY

Intuit – Mountain View, CA

Software Engineer, 03/2019 – 09/2023

Joined as a Front-End Engineer to design and code React components for a specialized **QuickBooks** and **TurboTax** support team. Projects included building React applications for QuickBooks public-facing customer support sites, unit testing, analysis of web traffic, and SEO optimization for high-ranked performance. Also included were deployments to staging and production servers via Lithium administration tools. Daily tool and/or language usage may include JavaScript, jQuery, CSS, Lithium, Jenkins, GitHub, React, HTML5, and more.

JLK Designs – Pleasanton, CA

Web Programmer & Database Developer, 11/2016 – 02/2019

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

ThinkHR – Pleasanton, CA

Senior Programmer & Database Developer, 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. Provided API interfacing and customization to allow data transfers with major SaaS applications such as Marketo, Tableau, Salesforce, and Braintree. 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.

Accomplishments:

- Constructed client entry system to hold and access over 290,000 questions & answers.
- Created 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

EDUCATION

Master's Degree 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 Degree 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

- Expert usage in Photoshop, Premiere, and Illustrator
- Strong experience with React, TypeScript, JavaScript, PHP, AJAX, & jQuery, JSON and XML.
- SEO coding and strategy
- Data backup and retrieval
- Technical documentation creation
- Accessibility dedication and awareness

MISCELLANEOUS

When asked about particular strengths, I illustrate one key attribute over all others: I learn and adapt fast. 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.

WRITTEN PUBLICATIONS

- 5 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 mystery dinner show on occasion. I consider world travel an ever-rewarding investment and have used vacations to explore over 22 different countries—including my ancestral homeland of Finland back in 2016. That said, my main destination is London (8 times so far). Bit of an obsession, one might say.

Other activities include a keen interest in AI Art (Midjourney, Leonardo, Stable Diffusion, etc.), 3D Modeling (Blender 4.0), building my own e-bike (and taking 50-mile bike rides), and constructing a 3D printer to create custom replacement parts (e.g., a new knob for a washing machine).

I'm an avid NFL fan with Niners and Raiders getting first focus (Sorry, Hawks), though other games are all well and good—especially on Redzone.

Karaoke Level: Advanced – with an emphasis on Elvis hits, but Backstreet Boys are also on standby.