

Professional Biography and Personal Motivations: A Prose Dossier

Written at the kind request of Oladipupo "Ladi" Adefala,
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In The Beginning

The year was 1997. I had just graduated from high school in June of that year, and was packing up for an enjoyable gap year in Europe and Denmark in order to fulfill a requirement of Her Majesty's government to maintain a lifetime citizenship, for I was lucky to have been born with a father who was born and raised in Copenhagen during the unlucky time of 1938.

During my year in Denmark, and during my free time spent at a Gymnasium (Europe's version of a high school), I happened to pop into Helsingør Bibliotek (the local town library) and discover the joy of reverse engineering some HTML and CSS code, specifically the website at right. Thus was born the interest of web development.



Electrical Engineering Baby Steps

The initial plan after coming back home in 1998 was to follow in my father's footsteps of electrical engineering, at Saint Louis University, where I had been accepted since 1996, and where my sister earned her J.D. in corporate law, as well as the Missouri and Multistate Bar Exams. However, the complex world of volts, ohms, watts and amps turned out to be not my best cup of tea, and my advisors suggested that I try a related field.

Flourishing With Computer Science

C, C++, C# and .NET, Java virtual machines, abstract data tables, Networking, Operating System theory, grammatical English and literature, traditional formal Aristotelian syllogistic logic, Calculus 1, 2, 3, 3D/Vector physics, the contrasting processes of Compilation vs. Interpretation, x86 Assembly theory, and finally a couple of classes regarding markup structure all appealed to my mathematically and logically-oriented brain. I finally graduated soon thereafter, while working part time in various corporate internships, contracts, as well as retail and restaurant gigs in order to support my apartment's income.

Cybersecurity: A Calling For Help

After agreeing with my mom in 2015, and studying at one of her alma maters (M.A. Ed. '91), that a Masters is essential to the best opportunities of employment, I chose the new field of cybersecurity over a more common choice of Information Technology Management (or ITM). My studies confirmed my preconceived notions of preparedness and vast opportunities for improvement within the military and private corporate sectors, since the revelations of Edward Snowden as well as Target's Black Friday data breach of 2013.

Where I Stand

So now I offer my future permanent home of employment a fantastic, diverse programming skillset of backend database structure and management, object oriented design, front-end user interface design, a highly curious technical aptitude of being able to enjoy the process of reverse engineering a codebase, at least three languages spoken, as well as a deep appreciation of what has been built with the Internet since its explosion in the late 1990s, and what more we need to do to secure it in this new millennium.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erik A. Buschardt, (2016-11-10).