

Aster Spencer

Senior Developer

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Strategic developer with over a decade of Python, Django and Javascript experience in website development and user experience. Problem solver and a people pleaser.

Professional Experience

Frostburg State University | Frostburg, MD Senior Developer (July 2013 – Present)

Lead a 3 person team to increase the university's web presence through a range of projects:

- Spearheaded an educational program for the greater campus about handicap web accessibility.
- Lead web rebranding project that increased new users sessions by 32.2%.
- Lead department efforts to git version control and Continuous Deployment. Implemented version control for all web projects and setup gitlab-ci deployment with Docker and Docker Compose.
- Served as the department's spokesperson, participating in technology conventions, local college and university tech groups, providing reviews, and providing direction to the CIO and director.
- Increased website up-time by over 4000% after rebuilding web architecture with nginx, caching, and keepalived.
- Redesigned the entire university web architecture resulting in a 40% increase in application development speed.
- Wrote and implemented a custom JSON Web Token authentication with Django through GraphQL that authenticates through Active Directory.
- Developed a full-stack real time Active Directory search application. The application used a VueJS frontend with Vuex and CSS3 Animations to asynchronous query a Django GraphQL Schema that translated the Vue queries into Active Directory queries.

Freelance | Cumberland, MD Owner/Freelancer (2006 – Present)

Opened and ran a local freelance business. Rapidly gained clients due to excellent customer service and the ability to explain complex technical issues at "human" level.

- Presented "From 0 to 100 in Django" at DjangoCon 2017.
- Created a Django Video Course for Packt Publishing.
- Blog posts accepted in the popular HackerNoon on Medium.
- Developed the EnterYourCredits online system to accommodate the MDDC Medical Conference.
- Provided volunteer services for multiple charities such as Maryland Salem Children's Trust and the Islamic Society of Cumberland for outreach and marketing.

- Developed asynchronous python bot to help with Online Community Manager role. The bot provided Ticket/Help Desk, Permissions, Staff Onboarding and synchronizing Staff and Platform discussions.
- Async Python bot integrated Redis and Postgres to provide a mirrored data source with quick access and persistent saving.
- Produced a python bot that provided a KanBan like experience through Discord including backing up all data as a self contained HTML file.

Volunteer Online Community Manager | Online, Owner (Sept 2016 - Present)

Started and managed online communities on both Reddit and Discord.

- Added as Head Community Manager on Reddit. Grew community for 28K to 432K members.
- Started a new community on Discord. Grew community from founding to 32K.
- Managed a team across both communities averaging 40+ team members organized into 8 teams.
- Developed and hosted a community website that aggregated the best content in a leaderboard style for both communities.
- Wrote and implemented an Experience Point system to encourage member participation and interactions.
- Organized and led multiple teaching events geared towards encouraging members to learn Python and contribute to Open Source Software. Events lead to 400+ verified contributions!

Exclamation Labs | Cumberland, MD Developer (Jan 2013 - Jul 2013)

Worked with a variety of Javascript and Java libraries to produce competitive web applications for Fortune 500 companies such as Gerber Life.

Education

Associates Degree, Computer Science | Allegany College of Maryland

Associates Degree, Programming | Allegany College of Maryland

Letter of Recommendation, Leadership | Allegany College of Maryland