

## **To Whom it May Concern**

I have applied for this position as I believe that I have a strong interest in your organisation, and IT-related businesses in particular.

As you can see from my CV, I am highly motivated, skilled in a wide variety of areas, and I am particularly well-trained in logical thinking. I have successfully run a handful of small commercial enterprises, and I am keen to move in this direction. From the variety of projects I have undertaken and succeeded at, it should be clear that I “think outside the box”. I have many skills which are useful in a corporate environment, particularly my IT skills, my innovative thinking, as well as my Desktop Publishing skills.

I have published a few books on IT, which may interest you. You can find them by searching for my surname on Amazon.com.

I hope my CV interests you.

# John Ostrowick

## Curriculum Vitæ

as at October 14, 2010

### *Personal Details*

**Full name:** John Montague Ostrowick  
**Driver's License:** Motorcar  
**Year of birth:** 1973  
**Residence:** Johannesburg, South Africa  
**Nationality:** South African, with UK Ancestral Visa Work Permit  
**Current Employment:** Student  
**Notice Period:** None  
**Telephone and Email:** Available on request; contact me on Facebook

### *Educational History and achievements*

**Primary School** English Prizes: 1984, 1985

**Jeppe High School** Prefect in charge of attendance records,  
University entrance qualification (Matric) (1990)

**Johannesburg  
College of  
Education (WITS)** Higher Diploma in Education, specialising in  
Physical Science, Mathematics and Biology  
(1994). Qualified to teach at high-school level.

**The University of the  
Witwatersrand** Bachelor of Arts (1997), majoring in Psychology and  
Philosophy. First-class prize 1995, first-class prize  
1997, Philosophy of Science.  
  
BA Honours, Philosophy (part-time, 2000).  
  
Master of Arts by dissertation in Philosophy  
(part-time, 2006).

**Tangent Systems** Advanced Linux Course (86%) (2003)  
  
Ethical Hacking and Security Course (No assessment,  
attendance only) (2004).

<b>The ITAA</b>	Attended the Transactional Analysis 101 Course (August 2008). (No assessment, attendance only) . This is a branch of psychology that focuses on relationships and communication skills, as well as behaviour patterns.
<b>Edinburgh University</b>	Accepted into PhD programme (2008-2009). Completed one year, transferred to UCT.
<b>University of Cape Town</b>	Accepted into PhD programme (2010).
<b><i>Employment History</i></b>	
<b>Early 1991-94</b>	<p>Freelance Desktop Publishing work.</p> <p>Johannesburg College of Education teacher training—6 months in total, spread over four years.</p> <p>I was also a member of a team of students that performed a community service in rural KwaZulu-Natal, renovating a primary school (Nompondo Primary, Hlabiso District), over a period of approximately three weeks. We collected money from sponsors and used the funds to refurbish the interiors and exteriors of four of the classrooms. It involved heavy manual labour in arduous conditions (no piped water, etc.)</p>
<b>1993-1994</b>	First Link Insurance Brokers—office assistant, network administrator, desktop publishing artist. I was responsible for producing brochures, internal company documents, adverts, etc.
<b>1995-2008</b>	<p>The University of the Witwatersrand—system administrator: Macintosh and Unix, some part-time lecturing: School of Computer Science and National Bioinformatics Network. I was employed at WITS for thirteen years exactly. I left in order to pursue a PhD at Edinburgh University.</p> <p>Successfully ran a party management group hosting nightclub events. This involved co-ordinating DJs, performers, bands, and sometimes caterers, as well as venue hire, etc. (2007-present).</p> <p>Successfully started an IT company creating data backup solutions. Was offered a buy-out by potential shareholders. OpenSourced the project as I decided it was of greater value to more people, and that this would bring the software a greater user-base. (2007-2008).</p>
<b>2009</b>	<p>Assisted with disabled students at Edinburgh University, UK.</p> <p>Presented a course in Web Design (HTML, CGI, JavaScript).</p>

Did informal Linux tutoring.

Published a number of popular-level books which I marketed online. This gave me experience in understanding how online marketing works. More below.

## ***Skill areas***

### **Computer-related**

Web design; I have built several sites (hand-coded), including the web site for the ITAA 2008 conference and several of the WITS websites. I code in HTML, CSS, PHP and Java. I know MySQL.

I know PhotoShop, FreeHand, Quark Xpress (DTP programs), and how to optimise images for either the web or for print. I am quite artistic and have had work exhibited (MuseuMAfrica Urban Futures 2000). I am familiar with video editing in iMovie.

I can do programming (Apple Macintosh Pascal, 6510 assembly, some understanding of GNU C++, some JavaScript, high level of expertise with Linux/UNIX shell scripts, Perl/CGI, AppleScript and UNIX/Linux commandline).

General UNIX/Linux/Apple Macintosh administration.

I have managed CableTron switches, networks running TCP/IP and Internet Fileservers. I am also well-acquainted with ADSL and WiFi installation.

At the height of my activities I have maintained email and web service for five schools and two departments at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (3000 users), using Linux servers. This included setting up and running a few database servers, one of which hosted the digital image archive of the Rock Art Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS), around 2003.

My greatest areas of expertise are in Apache, Sendmail, Linux, shells scripting, HTML, CSS, PHP, MySQL, Perl CGI and DNS/Bind, as well as MacOS, but I am well-acquainted with Windows as many of my users ran Windows desktops.

I have used computers since 1983, and know all varieties—hardware and software.

I have used UNIX since 1993 and Mac OS since 1986.

I also wrote a well-known set of lab tools (John's Lab Pak, 1995-1998) that were published on Apple Computer's third-party add-on websites. These tools were designed to create a multiple-user, server-authenticated environment for the Classic Mac OS (9, 8 and below), and were very successful.

I've had some articles published in a South African Apple computer magazine.

On leaving the University of the Witwatersrand I created a computer museum, showcasing the development of computer technology from the 1960s onwards, with about 30 different historical computer models, most of which I managed to get into working order.

I designed an automated encrypted backup system for Windows computers. The project involved liaising with potential investors and managing developers and subordinate technicians. It had a GUI written in C++ and a PHP web server interface. The project was eventually open-sourced.

Typing speed: 70 words per minute.

### **Teaching**

I have substantial teaching experience and can train staff in the use of IT solutions. I have taught IT courses to many people, mainly university students. (1996-2008).

### **Research work**

I am studying a PhD part-time in Philosophy. I am about half-way through. The write-up is largely complete; I have to do further reading, though. I do this on weekends.

### **Conference Papers**

I have published some conference papers, so I have no problem giving professional presentations to an audience.

- Network Booting versus hard disks: Costs and Implications (Conference on IT in Tertiary Education, UCT, Cape Town, ZA, in 2004).
- Libet's Experiments and Free-Will: Implications (Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, Sheraton Waikiki, Honolulu, HI, USA, in 2005). This paper has been presented a number of times and published in an academic journal.

### **Books Published**

I have published a number of popular-level books on with an online publisher, mainly computer-related.

- The Smallest Sendmail Book, about administering email servers. ISBN 978-1-4092-1390-1.
- Linux and Friends, a book about Linux and other varieties of UNIX. ISBN 978-1-4092-5220-7.
- How the Web Works—An Introduction. About building websites and running web servers. ISBN 978-1-4092-5651-9. I am presently working on a third edition to cover CSS and PHP.
- About This Macintosh — A basic Mac user's guide. ISBN 978-1-4452-9851-1.
- More About This Macintosh — An advanced Mac user's guide. ISBN 978-1-4457-1763-0

### **Languages**

English (Home language, exceptional fluency), Afrikaans. Some understanding of German.

### **Commercial:**

I have an excellent understanding of Insurance/Assurance, and the particular terminology used by such operations. I also have a good understanding of banks and banking systems. These two topics form the basis of my book, mentioned above.

I have successfully run two commercial operations, one of which has started to reach profitability (the party event organisation), and another of which I shut down once I had open-sourced the technology that I designed. I planned to re-focus the company on service and software installation rather than development. My plans were interrupted by my overseas studies.

### **Character and Management Skills**

I am an innovative thinker. I am efficient and knowledgeable. I work well in a team and I am also good at managing others, prioritising and delegating tasks and seeing the bigger picture.

- I was the chairperson of the board of directors of the legally-registered entity (Section 21) which represented my residential complex (2000-2003).
- I also managed a subordinate technician at my former university for about two years (2006-2007).
- I managed a team of three developers on a backup software product that I designed. (2007).

### **Work Preferences**

I am happiest in an environment where I can be innovative, learn, and help others to do so. I value job stability (I was in my most recent job for 13 years). I am presently running a small IT company doing web design and back-end databases.

## References

- Search for my first name and surname at any search engine.
- Prof Conrad Mueller, *conrad@cs.wits.ac.za*, head of Mathematical Sciences—was my head of department from 1995-2005.
- Prof Scott Hazelhurst, *scott.hazelhurst@wits.ac.za*, knows my teaching and Linux skills.
- Adi Meyers, *adimeyers@gmail.com*, knows my teaching and Linux skills.