

J M Ostrowick
HdipEd, MA

Dear Reader

I have applied to your organisation for a job as I believe that I have the specific skills that you require. I think that if you consult my CV, you will see that I have pursued many different areas of interest to successful completion. I am therefore confident that I will excel in anything I undertake. I believe that I could be an indispensable asset to you, helping your organisation to meet its goals.

Yours sincerely

John Ostrowick

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Curriculum Vitæ

as at September 28, 2011

Personal Details

Full name: John Montague Ostrowick
Driver's License: Motorcar (UK and ZA)
Year of birth: 1973
Residence: Johannesburg, South Africa
Nationality: South African, with UK Ancestral Visa Work Permit
Current Employment: IT Consultant (private), and postgraduate student (UCT)
Notice Period: None
Telephone and Email: Available on request; contact me on Facebook or LinkedIn

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).

Edinburgh University Accepted into PhD programme (2008). Completed one year, transferred to UCT due to economic recession.

University of Cape Town Accepted into PhD programme (2010).

The ITAA Attended the Transactional Analysis 101 Course (August 2008). (No assessment, attendance only) .

Employment History

Early 1991-94 Freelance DTP work.

Johannesburg College of Education teacher training—6 months in total, spread over four years.

I was also a member of a team of students that performed a community service project in rural KwaZulu-Natal, rebuilding a primary school (Nompondo Primary, Hlabiso District), over a period of approximately three weeks.

1993-1994 First Link Insurance Brokers—office assistant, network administrator, desktop publishing artist.

1995-2008 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.

2006-2008 Part-time: website hosting and consulting.
This business venture also involved the design of a backup system for Windows PCs. More below.

I also started a successful monthly private party venture with two other business partners, which I later sold.

2009 Accepted for tutor position, Edinburgh University.
Assisted with disabled students at Edinburgh University.
Presented a course in Web Design (HTML, CGI, JavaScript).
Informal Linux tutoring. Published a number of books. More below.

2009-2011 Postgraduate Student, UCT. IT Consultant, assisting at Origins Centre, Wits University.

Skill areas

Computer-related

Web design; I have built several sites (hand-coded).

I know Desktop Publishing / Page layout (PhotoShop, Quark and FreeHand), Advertising design.

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.

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, 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 consider myself very knowledgeable about all Apple products, especially Mac OS X, and have written two books about it.

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

I have used UNIX since 1993 and Mac OS since 1986. In other words, I currently have 25 years' experience with Mac.

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 OpenSourced.

Currently administer computers at Origins Centre, Wits University, part-time.

Typing speed: 70 words per minute.

Creative work

Electronic artwork exhibited at the Urban Futures 2000 (WITS/MuseuMAfrica) Exhibition. I am very skilled as an artist and can achieve almost photorealism in drawings. This led me to work in DTP, and hence, Apple Mac.

Teaching

Qualified to teach up to grade 12: Science, Mathematics, Biology.

I have taught university students, and presented computer courses in all my areas of expertise, including lectures for Computer Science Honours students on networking and Linux Operating System Architecture (2003-2005 inclusive). I presented a similar course to the National Bioinformatics Network at the University of the Western Cape (2004-2008 inclusive), the WITS branch (2006), as well as the University of the Orange Free State (2008). These courses were well-received and highly rated.

I am very knowledgeable in most fields and can teach anything. I am enthusiastic about learning and about sharing my knowledge with others. I can explain things well and I am exceptionally clear.

I have tutored students in Edinburgh and I have presented a course on web design (2009).

Research work

I am studying a PhD part-time in Philosophy.

Conference Papers

I have published some conference papers.

- Network Booting versus hard disks: Costs and Implications (Conference on IT in Tertiary Education, UCT, Cape Town, ZA, in 2004).
- Other conference papers were in philosophy.

Books Published

I have published a number of books with an online publisher. They are available for purchase on Amazon.com

The computer books, specifically, are:

- The Smallest Sendmail Book, about administering sendmail 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.
- 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
- I have another book that is not ready for press, on Linux security.

Languages

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

Other areas of interest:

Particle Physics, Astronomy, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Genetics, Evolutionary Biology and Archæology/ Palæontology, Historical or Comparative Linguistics, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Mind, Sociology and Politics, Epistemology and Metaphilosophy, Art, History, Operating Systems.

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 which represented my residential complex (2000-2003).
- I also managed a subordinate technician at my previous university for about two years (2006-2007).
- I managed a team of three developers on the backup software product mentioned above. (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 available immediately for work. I would prefer a job closer to home (presently Northern Johannesburg).

References

- Search for my first name and surname at any search engine.
- Prof Conrad Mueller, *conrad@cs.wits.ac.za*, or *muellercsm@tut.ac.za*, head of Mathematical Sciences—was my head of department from 1995-2005.
- Sue McGlashan, *sue.mcglashan@utoronto.ca*, was my former manager. She knows my computer abilities. I reported to her from about 2000-2004.
- Prof Scott Hazelhurst, *scott.hazelhurst@wits.ac.za*, knows my teaching and Linux skills. I reported to him from about 2000-2008.
- Adi Meyers, *adimeyers@gmail.com*, knows my teaching and Linux skills. I worked with her mainly on the NBN Linux teaching project from 2004-2007.
- Geoff Blundell, *geoff.blundell@wits.ac.za*, *geoff@origins.org.za*, was one person I reported to when I ran the Rock Art Research institute's image database around 2003 at the University of the Witwatersrand. I am presently consulting for his Origins Centre Museum, which is heavily based on Mac OS X (2009-2011), also located at Wits.