Derek Best

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Creative and tech-savvy Senior Web & UI Designer with a Bachelor's in Film & Media Studies, a Web Programming Certificate, and 15+ years of success crafting Section 508 compliant, visually appealing, and user-friendly websites. Excel in the front-end development of responsive designs which improve the user interface (UI)/user experience (UX) by providing a seamless digital experience. Developed 100+ websites for government health, national energy, and defense agencies. Leverage communication and organizational skills to thrive in collaborative settings.

Professional Experience

Sandia National Labs Contract (sandia.gov), Edgewater Federal Solutions & SAIC | Albuquerque, NM
Senior Web & UI Designer | May 2015 - June 2023

- Appointed the principal designer and front-end developer for the company's internal/external website presence
- Confirmed compliance with client requirements by interpreting and modifying user experience (UX) testing for the development of final wireframes and mockups
- Leveraged knowledge and experience to develop state-of-the-art front-end solutions by applying graphic design trends and utilizing HTML, CSS, and jQuery
- Collaborated with 10+ team members in both an Agile and Scrum environment to train designers and ensure projects were completed on time
- Worked closely with clients and product owners to narrow and focus requirements while projects remained within budget

Indian Health Service (ihs.gov), Phacil Inc. & Chickasaw Nation Industries | Rockville, MD
Web Designer | April 2004 - February 2015

- Consulted with clients and developed/designed websites for federal clients within the Indian Health Service (IHS) and complied with Section 508 regulations
- Administered 20+ customer web accounts and worked closely with key stakeholders to define requirements and create engaging content
- Tracked graphic design trends and developed front-end solutions using HTML, CSS, and jQuery for both desktop and mobile environments
- Created mockups, wireframes, graphics, and final templates using HTML, ColdFusion, CSS, and jQuery and which were integrated utilizing the Mura content management system
- Spearheaded the redesign of the ihs.gov website and developed/delivered in-house training programs on advanced CSS3 techniques to improve performance

Core Competencies

Project Management, Website Design, User-Centered Web Interfaces, User Interface (UI)/User Experience (UX), Agile/Scrum Methodologies, Content Creation, Section 508 Compliance, Search Engine Optimization (SEO), Graphic Design, Branding, Training, Communication/Interpersonal/Analytical/Organizational Skills, Problem-Solving

Technical Skills

Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Dreamweaver, Adobe XD, Lunacy (Sketch), Balsamic, Fig, Confluence, Visual Studio Code, WordPress, Mura Content Management System, DevOps, Git, HTML5, CSS3, PHP, ColdFusion, Siteimprove, React, Angular, Basic Scripting in JavaScript (Dom Manipulation & jQuery), Artificial Intelligence (AI) (ChatGPT/Bard)

Education/Certifications

Bachelor of Arts in Film & Media Studies, University of Utah
Web Programming Certificate, San Diego State University