



# Gary Voss

## Front-End Web Developer

Flashback a little over three years ago. Having just returned from my aimless wandering around the planet and not quite knowing what to do with myself, I took a job as a 'Design Coordinator' at Vinci Construction, beginning down an arguably unrelated career path to which I had spent the previous four years training, that of a Graphic Designer. However much of a tangent this seemed to be at the time, it was there that I was introduced to web development, and although this first introduction was through the medium of Microsoft Word (not something I would recommend), it was still enough to get me hooked. Having proven myself at Vinci, I was offered a permanent position, with all the benefits you can expect from a corporate role. But as my interest for web development had well and truly taken hold, I decided to quit and focus all my attention on this new obsession, to which I had very little knowledge and next to no experience.

Three years on, how right a decision that was. Over that time I have pieced together a wealth of knowledge and skills that allow me the confidence to tackle any web development challenge I come across.

### Skills

HTML, CSS, SCSS, SVG, SMIL, JS, React, GitHub, Terminal, Webpack, Firebase, DoubleClick Manager, Sketch, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop

### Sale Grammar School/Sixth form - 2001/2008

A Levels - 3 (B,C,C)

GCSEs - 10 (A\* C including Maths A, English A,B & Science B,B)

### Sheffield Hallam University - 2008/2012

MDes Graphic Design/Illustration - 2:2 (Hons)

During my time at University I studied for an integrated Masters in Graphic Design. This included a comprehensive overview of a wide range of graphic disciplines (Brand Identity, Typography, Editorial design, Advertising, Motion, Illustration and 3D design), as well as a much more in depth study of one chosen area, mine being Illustration. Although I never went on to become the Graphic Designer I trained to be, I do not regret choosing this as my initial field of study. Gaining an understanding of the design industry, it's practices and thought processes have been invaluable to me and my work as a Front-End Developer and have instilled in me the dedication to produce work that I feel not only functions seamlessly but maintains a high quality visual aesthetic.

### Unrelated work experience -2006/2014

Independence and self-reliance have always been qualities I have held in high regard, encouraging me at an early age to enter the working world as soon as I was able. Having had numerous part time jobs over the years, alongside School and University, I have been able to develop the skills needed to successfully balance the responsibilities of multiple pursuits, maintaining a high standard of work overall.

### Freelance - 2013/2016

Once I had gained my degree and was ready to enter the creative industry, I found myself, as many new graduates do, woefully inexperienced for many of the potential jobs I desired to undertake. It was then that I looked to freelance work to address this. Over the years I have dipped in and out of freelance work, working with numerous clients on various jobs, ranging in size and difficulty, and although I enjoyed the work, it is working as part of a team that I find most rewarding. Collaborating with talented designers and innovative developers is one of the most gratifying aspects of web development and I can honestly say that without this sharing of ideas, I wouldn't have been able to gain half the skills I have today.

### Vinci Construction - 2014 (5 Months)

Although seemingly unrelated to my now chosen career path, my time spent as a Design Coordinator at Vinci allowed me to better develop my collaboration skills. Working on the construction of the Volkswagen Financial Service headquarters, I was responsible for maintaining the accuracy of the building as it related to the structural designs, which required my facilitating the communication between the many sub-contractors working on site.

### Bourne Leisure - 2014/2017

After I had discovered a passion for web development, I was given the opportunity to join the newly formed Digital team within the in-house design studio at Bourne Leisure. Having a limited knowledge base at the time, I was eager to learn as much as possible and was encouraged to do so by building emails. This was a great place to start learning the basics, however the limitation of email development became frustrating and I was keen to see what was possible. Through progressive enhancements and the motivation to improve on the industry standard I was able to produce an end result that increased the customer click through rate by 46%. It is this motivation to continuously improve on what came before that I have instilled in all of the projects I have been involved in.

### Employee of the year - 2016

The most challenging project I have undertaken whilst at Bourne, was the construction of the Haven Ownership website. Working as the sole Front-End Developer on such a large scale site was an amazing opportunity for me to test and develop my skills, learning from my mistakes and successes as the site came together. Throughout the project I came to greatly appreciate the necessity for scalable code, adopting the method of modular components in order to produce an end result that was as efficient as possible. The complexity of the project has allowed me to improve in a multitude of areas, particularly with my skills in JavaScript, each page bringing with it a new puzzle that needed resolving, and it is this continuous problem solving that has become one of my favourite aspect of web developments. My determination to complete the project to the highest standard, enabled me to produce a site I'm really proud of and resulted in me being awarded Bourne Supports Employee of the year for 2016.

### What's next?

Having a career that continuously challenges me has become a driving force in my life, and now I'm looking for that next challenge. If you're looking for a passionate and motivated web developer, verging on the obsessive, contact me at [hello@garyvoss.co.uk](mailto:hello@garyvoss.co.uk). To take a look at some of the projects I have been involved in, visit my website at [garyvoss.co.uk](http://garyvoss.co.uk).