Information Age Systems Internship

By Alex Schultz

About IAS

- Started in 2003
- Computer Consulting company
- Under 10 employees
- Two teams
  - Software Development Team
  - Network Team

Responsibilities and Tasks

- Client Backup Monitoring
- Website Maintenance and Development
- Assisting with Sencha Touch Application Development
- Running updates on client computers

Technologies Used

- For Backup Monitoring
    - Ibackup
    - Log Me In
    - Windows Backup
    - Symantec Backup System
- For Websites
    - WordPress
    - CMS Made Simple
- For App Development
    - Sencha Touch

Client Backup Monitoring

- For about 11 clients I needed to login into their ibackup accounts online and make sure any backup associated with their account ran

  - If they failed to run I was to notify the networking team

- For those same clients I also needed to log into their computers using the remote desktop control service Log Me In

  - Once logged in I needed to check for various backups that needed to run on their machines and report the results to the networking team

Running Updates on Client Computers

- Periodically I would need to connect to clients workplace machines and run updates and virus scans on them

- This would be done for two companies that each had about 50-70 employee computers that would need to have the virus scans and updates ran on them

- After completing these the result needed to be reported to the networking team so they could look into any problems

Website Maintenance and Development

- IAS wanted to redo their website so I was tasked with setting it up using WordPress so it would be easy to manage
  - A few features not present in their previous website needed to be added such as
    - An RSS feed of new alerts related to computer security
    - A page where users can sign up for a monthly newsletter sent out by IAS. This was accomplished by adding a sign up integration from the email marketing service MailChimp
- I was also tasked with updating two clients websites when they needed to add updated information to their websites. This was usually only once or twice a week.

Assistance with Application Development

- One of IAS's clients used an application developed by IAS to manage their warehouse and product ordering and shipping

- The client wanted IAS to develop an android application that would make use of the already developed application

- I was tasked with creating the screens and layout of the application so that the development team could work on the back end

- Sencha touch was the framework I used to develop the layout and screens

Sencha Touch

- MVC based JavaScript framework that is used for mobile web development

- Makes use of HTML5 and JavaScript

- Useful for creating applications that will be making use of touch screen mechanics

Challenges

- I thought that the biggest challenge of this internship was learning how to use the Sencha Touch framework
  - Figuring out how the different components featured in Sencha Touch could and could not fit together was difficult at first but was overcome with more exposure to the framework

How classroom experience helped

- Database was probably the most useful class that helped me with some parts of this internship
  - Mostly helpful with the web design portion after learning HTML and CSS in Database
  - Learning SQL was also very useful on a few occasions

What I Learned

- Through this internship I feel like I took away a few things that will be useful going forward
  - Professional communication with clients
  - Sencha Touch framework
  - Learned a bit more about web design