

Kara Flaherty

Web Developer
& Visual Designer

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PROFILE

I emphasize test-driven development in all of my work with an eye toward clean and simple user experiences and a passion for version control.

As both a web developer and visual designer, I believe code that is beautiful and concise is as important as a user interface that functions flawlessly. With learning as my top StrengthsFinder® skill, tackling new languages and frameworks is one of my favorite things to do to satisfy my constant curiosity for how things work.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, jQuery, **Angular,** React, Node.js, **Bootstrap, Ruby, Rails,** RSpec, REST API design, JSON, regex, **Git, GitHub, command line,** AWS Lambda, **Alexa Skills Kit,** Firebase, MySQL, PostgreSQL, **Wordpress, Google Analytics,** **Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign,** **UI/UX design, Agile principles**

EDUCATION

University of Nebraska
at Kearney | 2011
B.A. in Mass Media / Visual
Communication & Design

Bloc | 2017
Full-Stack Web Development

EXPERIENCE

Prairie Mountain Media | Page Designer & Editor 1/2017 - Current

Design hub for over 20 Colorado and out-of-state newspapers and publications, including the Boulder Daily Camera, Denver Post, and St. Paul Pioneer Press

- Work with remote editors via Slack to organize, edit, and design the daily newspaper and special sections under tight production-critical deadlines
- Format content according to HTML tags and CSS stylesheets that automatically set print and web typography according to each paper's style
- Stand in as secondary editor to the Colorado Daily, which requires further HTML/CSS formatting of content to prepare it for the web and social media

Self-employed | Web & Graphic Designer 1/2009 - 12/2016

Freelance and contract work for independent publications, small businesses, and established marketing companies in the U.S., South Korea and Australia

- Join teams remotely to build websites, test user experiences, code custom plugins, create content, and design cohesive branding
- Troubleshoot design and database issues for web clients
- Design and implement marketing campaigns for email and social media
- Set up systems of organization for easy user access to large amounts of information, such as a database of products or archived articles

Scottsbluff Star-Herald | Multimedia Designer 6/2012 - 12/2013

Professional work in the advertising and multimedia departments at Scottsbluff's local newspaper with a circulation of more than 16,000

- Design, code, and ship marketing campaigns for email and social media
- Convert content from print to digital via HTML/CSS and the addition of photo galleries and related content to keep the newspaper's website up-to-date
- Utilize my web development skills for advertising clients who a) don't have a website, b) want a new website, or c) need help with their current website
- ★ As a new, much-needed income stream for the advertising department, web development became a permanent staple of the newspaper's digital media offerings for local advertisers based on my successful implementation.

RECENT PROJECTS

Alexa Skills | Developer 11/2017

Create and publish voice-enabled skills for the Amazon Alexa platform (github.com/karakarakaraff/alexa-skills)

- Clone and customize the Alexa fact sample for Kurt Vonnegut Quotes
- Clone, customize and debug the Alexa trivia sample for Stranger Things Trivia
- Write a custom Node.js Lambda function for The Oregon Trail game
- Utilize AWS Lambda, ASK-CLI, and the Amazon Developer Portal

Bloc Chat | Web Developer 5/2017 & Current

Real-time chat application that allows users to create their own chat rooms (github.com/karakarakaraff/bloc-chat)

- Build a webapp with the Angular framework (now rebuilding with React)
- Design an interface for authorization and chat navigation based on wireframes
- Incorporate Angular modules such as Firebase, ngCookies, and UI Bootstrap