

Christopher James Hilder

9 Slant St • Port Chalmers • (03) 472 7541 • (027) 463 8422 • cj.hilder@clear.net.nz

Relevant Work History

2006-present	Database Systems Developer for National Formulary <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standards development• Database specification, design, and programming• Web development• Sub-editing• IT support	Best Practice Advocacy Centre Inc, Dunedin
2005-2006	Web Designer <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sales• Marketing• Web site development (including programming)	HilderBuild web design and hosting HilderBuild.com (self employed)
1998-2005	Lecturer <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information Systems Management (2005)• Information Technology (2004-05)• Courses in networking (2003), programming (2002), investigative science (1999-2001), and astronomy (1998-2001)	Otago Polytechnic and Dunedin College of Education
Since 1996	Fireworks Display Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dunedin sales• Customer relations• Documentation and consents• Employing, training and supervising staff• Designing, arranging and firing displays	Firework Professionals Ltd, Christchurch
Since 2000	Science Communicator <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing and designing <i>Astronomy in Your Hands</i> (web-based resource published at AstronomyInYourHands.com)• Devising and presenting <i>Starry Starry Night</i> and <i>Flash Bang Wallop!</i> (science theatre presented at International Science Festival, Dunedin; Reef Festival, Cairns; and Otago Museum, Dunedin)	Magic Lantern Company (self employed)
1990-1992	Technical Writer <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing software manuals	Right Words NZ Ltd, Dunedin

Qualifications

BA (Otago) major in Theatre Studies (1994)

BSc (Canterbury) major in Physics with Computer Science to stage II (1981)

Currently completing **Grad Cert in Science (Massey)** with Mathematics major

Awards

Griffith Observatory Star Award (Sept 2004) awarded for *Astronomy in Your Hands* website

Festival Challenge Cup (1997) awarded for producing multi-ethnic group performances and special effects at the opening of the Dunedin Festival 1997

Hobbies and Interests

Tramping, rock climbing, music, reading, writing, computer programming, sundial design, panoramic photography, community arts projects

Key personal attributes

Education	
Tertiary qualifications	My BA and BSc degrees include papers in mathematics, physics, computer science, human biology (anatomy, physiology, biochemistry), psychology, economics, classics, English literature, Maori studies, education, theatre directing, and community theatre.
Good general knowledge	In obtaining a BSc and BA I obtained a 'liberal education', embracing a wide range of subjects. I have since built on this broad base by reading, by attending courses with some very talented trainers, and by working with a diverse range of professionals on different projects. I am currently taking third year mathematics papers as part of a graduate certificate.
Experience	
Teaching	I have taught a wide range of IT courses, including high school and Summer School courses in the 80's and 90's, and more recently programming, networking, general IT, and Systems Management at Otago Polytechnic.
Sound knowledge of IT and the Internet	I have been involved in IT since learning BASIC programming in 1975, and in teaching IT since the early 80's. I have worked as tutor, programmer, software publisher, and web designer, as well as teaching on the Otago Polytechnic BIT and CIT courses. I have over 20 years experience installing and maintaining software on PC's; covering DOS through to Windows XP. I currently develop for the web using XML, XSLT, HTML, Javascript and CSS. I develop software in C++, with prototyping in MS Access and Visual Basic. I have extensive past experience with 6502 machine code, Pascal, Perl, and PHP. I currently develop in C for the Atmel Microcontrollers as a hobby.
Experience with corporate computer systems, particularly in the area of Office Automation	I am fully conversant with Microsoft Office software, having taught courses covering Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access. I have developed extensive applications in MS Access, and provide extensive Word support to the Formulary team (including shared spelling dictionaries and managing shared documents on a common repository)
Experience with website administration, web standards and effective information design	I have designed and administered websites for clients. I am familiar with a range of web standards and whenever I am involved in producing HTML I strive to ensure that all pages are compliant, not only with HTML and CSS standards, but also with accepted standards of privacy and related policies. I have studied and taught effective information design for websites. A summary of my understanding of this topic can be found at hilderbuild.com/design_guidelines.html .
Journalism and editing experience	I have extensive experience in writing software manuals and instructional material, as well as a small quantity of fiction. The instructions on how to make a star wheel at AstronomyInYourHands.com/activities/makestarwheel.html are a good example of the former, the short story that I performed at Port Chalmers Community Library (Sept 8 th) is a good example of the latter. (The star wheel instructions do work; with nearly 500 subscribers to date I have never had a request for help with star wheel construction.)

Skills	
Excellent literacy and writing skills	A+ grades for written work in final year papers. See AstronomyInYourHands.com for an example of published work.
Research and evaluation skills	I have carried out extensive research while developing teaching presentations and resources as a science educator. This has included subject research in astronomy and cosmology, as well as field research into the usability of resources. I have researched pharmaceutical terminology systems and databases as consultant to HISO (Health Information Standards Organisation).
Communication skills and the ability to relate to a wide range of people	Student feedback from courses I have taught at Polytechnic and in the community confirm that I communicate well a wide range of people.
Programming	I am a competent programmer with experience in the Windows API, socket programming, database programming including embedded databases, and micro-controllers. I am a flexible programmer who learns new languages exceptionally quickly. I am currently developing a distributed server system for deploying a National Formulary using a number of languages principally C++, Visual Basic, XSLT, and Javascript.
Enthusiasm and the ability to share information and to lead and motivate staff	My enthusiasm acts as a strong motivator for people working with me. This has been most tangible when working with community groups (for example, it is the reason behind me being awarded the Festival Challenge Cup) but applies equally well to my relationship with professional colleagues.
Special Personal Attributes	
Able to work under pressure, meet deadlines and solve problems with minimal supervision	Setting up, managing, and firing a major fireworks display is a perfect test of these attributes. There is no room for rehearsing a fireworks display – it must function first time, and on time. Mine do.
Proven team approach	I am a team player, whether it's contributing to the degree team at Otago Polytechnic, bringing a team of volunteers together in a community arts project, or managing a team setting up a fireworks display.
Self motivated with considerable organisational skills	I have run my own business successfully. Events and projects that I organise often involve considerable numbers of people in varying capacities. At Best Practice I work almost completely unsupervised.
Imaginative with a high degree of creativity	The challenge was to make a National Formulary available to third-party software in a way that would minimise development and maintenance costs. The solution I designed is to deploy the product as a specialised database server offering a far higher level of functionality than distributing the raw data. Third party software connects to the server using TCP/IP and can query the database using high level queries if desired.

Referees

Please do not contact referees without my permission

Alan McClintock
Formulary Editor
Best Practice Advocacy Centre Inc
PO Box 6032
Dunedin
(03) 688 8107
alanm@bpac.org.nz

Anthony Lealand
CEO
Fireworks Professionals Ltd
PO Box 19912
Christchurch
(03) 982 3473
firework@firework.co.nz

Sharleen Howison
Senior Lecturer
Otago Polytechnic
P O Box 1910
Dunedin
(03) 479 6164
showison@tekotago.ac.nz