

Soroush J. Pour

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Personal Summary

Soroush created his first website at the age of eleven, started programming at the age of twelve, and has been hooked by the huge potential of software to create wondrous things ever since. In 2011, he cofounded WealthLift.com and took a year off from Duke University to work on the startup in Berlin, Germany after raising \$100,000 from three angel investors. The platform grew to 70,000 registered users and was cash flow positive within its first four months. He and Fabio sold the site in December 2013. Having worked on a range of entrepreneurial ventures and technical projects since, Soroush spends the majority of time today exploring opportunities in the cryptocurrency space, including building a Bitcoin arbitrage bot for a cryptocurrency focused hedge fund in NYC and working on open-source projects that explore new potential applications on the blockchain. Having been lucky enough to be born to immigrant parents and live in five countries, Soroush sees huge potential in unlocking the permission-less innovation and ease of financial transactions that cryptocurrency can deliver to billions of people worldwide.

Education

Duke University

Durham, NC

Class of 2014

- BSE Mechanical Engineering, Minor in Mathematics
- Robertson Scholar (robertsonscholars.org), Full Merit Scholarship and 4-year leadership development program.
- GPA: 3.81/4.00, Magna cum Laude

Normanurst Boys Selective High School

Normanurst, NSW, Australia

Class of 2008

- Public, magnet high school, Years 7-12
- UAI (NSW State Percentile Ranking): 99.35/10

Work Experience

Cofounder, Fireplace Labs

Raleigh, NC

12/13 – Present

Founded profitable software development company with two other team members. Past projects include:

- Automated Bitcoin Arbitrage Bot
 - For a hedge fund in NYC, built a Bitcoin arbitrage bot to pull orderbooks from three Bitcoin exchanges, normalize and trade based on pricing differences. Built using Golang, Negroni framework, PostgreSQL DB.
- Custom Facebook Referral Program
 - For a wedding startup in Raleigh, built application that pulled from Facebook API, selected engaged friends and sent app invites. Utilized responsive Bootstrap, SASS, PHP, Codelgniter, MySQL DB to match client stack.

CEO, WealthLift Inc.

Durham, NC & Berlin, Germany

05/11 – 12/13

Founded and built a gamified, engaging financial platform, WealthLift.com

- Designed and built the web application with co-founder using PHP & MySQL
- Scaled the platform to 60,000 visitors a month on Amazon EC2 with use of Varnish caching
- Revenue positive from 10/2011 onwards from lead generation to online brokerages and other financial products
- Developed and tested A/B tests, conversion funnels and gamification to optimize user behavior
- Hired and managed our marketing manager, chief editor and several blog writers

Summer Intern, Belle Reve

New Orleans, LA

06/10 – 08/10

Belle Reve (www.bellerevenola.org) is an organization that provides temporary and permanent housing to New Orleans residents diagnosed with HIV-AIDS and at risk of homelessness. My projects included:

- Built an organization wide wireless Internet network
- Planned and built of a full feature audio-video multimedia room
 - Used as a presentation and activities room for staff and residents
 - Extremely self-directed work with a number of organizational and hands-on hardware skills gained.
- Assisted in Life Skills coaching for recovering residents

Store Manager, Domino's Pizza

Sydney, Australia

11/06 – 03/08

As Store Manager, my role involved having responsibility of the restaurant itself, including food preparation and delivery, staff supervision, customer complaint handling and work with stock and maintenance contractors.

Projects

Bitcoin Micropayments Channel

Raleigh, NC

11/14 – Present

Building a Bitcoin micropayments channel implementation in Golang. Successfully created and redeemed a raw P2SH Multisig transaction on blockchain, currently working on payer/payee transaction signing steps. Will be open-sourced shortly.

InMoov Humanoid Robotic Arm

Durham, NC

01/14 – 05/14

3D-Printed, assembled and wrote software for 8-servo humanoid robotic arm based on open-source InMoov hardware project, with 3 other team members. Largest hardware project to date, video available at: <http://bit.ly/sfrobotics1>

Dubbit, Cartoon Creator App

San Francisco, CA & Durham, NC

07/13 – 11/13

Built iOS app that allowed users to create and share their own animated cartoons, with character movement and voice over support, with one other team member. Utilized iOS Cocos2D game engine, server-side ZeroMQ subscribe queue, Python Pygame game engine, FFmpeg and YouTube/DailyMotion/Vimeo API to create service. Available in App Store: <http://bit.ly/1xf7jFI>

Live Chat Support iOS SDK

San Francisco, CA

05/13

Built plug-and-play SDK for iOS developers to integrate live chat support easily into their apps, with a hosted backend, with one other team member. Was largely responsible for iOS design and development. Server side involved Node.js/Express implementation with XMPP support. Open-sourced on GitHub: <http://bit.ly/1xf7v7I>

Activities

- Duke Adaptive Climbing (dukeadaptiveclimbing.org) – Volunteer, Mar 2014-Present
- Pi Kappa Phi, 2010-2014
- OASIS Student Mentoring Program – Duke Program Director, 2010-2011, Team Leader 2009-2010
 - Organized bi-weekly mentorship events for the middle school students of the Durham Nativity School, who are academically promising students from high risk, low income households.
- Duke University Rugby Team – Player, Communications Chair, 2009-2011
- Normanhurst Boys High School Rugby Team – Player, 2003-2008
- NBHS School Representative Council, 2003 – 2008

Technical Skills

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|-------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| ▪ HTML | ▪ Objective-C | ▪ jQuery | ▪ Docker |
| ▪ CSS/SASS/LESS | ▪ SQL | ▪ Node.js/Express | ▪ C |
| ▪ Git | ▪ Ruby/Rails | ▪ Linux Server Admin | ▪ R |
| ▪ Golang | ▪ Python | ▪ Amazon AWS EC2, S3, CloudFront | ▪ MATLAB |
| ▪ PHP/CodeIgniter | ▪ JavaScript | | ▪ SolidWorks |

Awards & Achievements

- Frank Borchardt Undergraduate Prize (2014)
 - Prize and \$10,000 grant for most promising graduating undergraduate startup team
- Robertson Scholar (2009)
- NSW State Premier's Award: All-Around Achievers (2008)
- PricewaterhouseCoopers Economics Competition: High Distinction (2007)
- Junior Award for Excellence in Computing (2006)

Interests

Rugby, Bouldering, Travelling, Coding, Robotics, Economics

Languages

English (Native), Japanese (Intermediate Fluency), Persian (Intermediate Fluency)

Independent Learning

Applied Cryptography

University of Virginia, Professor Dave Evans (Udacity)

10/14 – Present

- 8-week course, with programming exercises. Currently in progress at Lesson 4 of 7.

Machine Learning

Stanford University, Professor Andrew Ng (Coursera)

06/14 – 07/14

- 10-week course, with programming exercises. All exercises and tests completed.

References

Available promptly upon request.