



TOM RHODES

CREATIVE DEVELOPER

Full-stack web
systems · interactive

CONTACT

LOCATION

Albano Laziale (Rome), Italy
Open to remote work (UK / EU)

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LINKEDIN

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GITHUB

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LANGUAGES

English — native
Italian — bilingual

Profile

Developer with 20+ years building for the web, from interactive campaigns for Samsung, Visa and the BBC to production systems I run myself. For over ten years I designed, built and operated a secure email and print service used daily by prisoners and their families in three Italian prisons, covering the web app, mail server and document pipeline. I combine a designer's eye for detail with hands-on server skills, and I use AI coding tools (Claude Code, GitHub Copilot) to ship quickly while owning the architecture, review and deployment. Bilingual in English and Italian.

Experience

Founder & Lead Developer — Inkiostro

2015 – 2026

Prison email service, Italy · independent as Inkiostro from 2022, previously run for another company

Secure correspondence service connecting prisoners with their families at C.C. Velletri (2015–2024), C.C. Latina (2017–2025) and Regina Coeli, Rome (2025–2026). I set it up and ran it end to end: product, code, servers and relationships with prison administrations.

- Built the admin web app in Haxe compiled to Node.js with MySQL: role-based access, several prisons on one system, prisoner and family-contact records, credits and renewals.
- Ran my own mail infrastructure (Postfix, Dovecot, OpenDKIM) with automated inbound processing over IMAP.
- Designed a print pipeline that turns incoming email into batched PDFs (HTML templates rendered with WeasyPrint) for delivery inside the prison.
- Built QR-coded reply sheets: handwritten replies are scanned, decoded and routed back to the right family by email.
- Led a V2 rewrite into modular services, deployed alongside V1 so staff could switch over without downtime; managed with PM2 and nginx on Linux.

Co-founder & Lead Developer — Locro

2026 – present

SaaS for Cambridge exam centres

- Built a scheduling platform that assigns examiners, invigilators and venues to exam sessions, now in beta with a Cambridge exam centre in Italy.
- Stack: Haxe compiled to a Node.js (Express) server and vanilla-JS clients, MySQL; landing site in Vite + Tailwind; deployed with PM2 and nginx.
- Designed the marketing site and an interactive ROI calculator, and worked on pricing tiers and the sales-enquiry flow with my co-founder.

SKILLS

Languages

JavaScript, Haxe, PHP,
HTML/CSS, SQL, Python

Back end

Node.js, Express,
MySQL/MariaDB, SQLite,
REST APIs, JWT auth

Front end

Tailwind CSS, Vite, GSAP
animation, responsive UI,
WordPress themes

Servers & ops

Linux (Ubuntu), nginx, PHP-FPM,
PM2, Redis,
Postfix/Dovecot/DKIM, DNS, VPS
hosting, migrations

Documents & automation

PDF generation (WeasyPrint), QR
scanning, email processing,
Python tools

Design

Photoshop, Illustrator, Inkscape,
After Effects, UX and motion
design

AI-assisted development

Claude Code, GitHub Copilot

EDUCATION

BA, History of Ideas and Philosophy

Middlesex University, London,
1997

A levels: English Language, Computer Studies

Josiah Mason College,
Birmingham, 1994

CERTIFICATES

TensorFlow

DeepLearning.AI, 2022
Introduction to TensorFlow for AI
Convolutional Neural Networks
Natural Language Processing

Experience

continued

Freelance Developer

2007 – present

- **Agencies** (Clicked, Traffik, Exposure, Draw Group, Last Exit): rich-media ad campaigns, microsites, games, Facebook apps and video for The Body Shop, BBC (Frozen Planet), Disney, Samsung (UHD TV, curved monitors), Visa, Jimmy Choo, Heineken, O2, Sony, Carphone Warehouse, Moonpig, TalkTalk, Vonage, Palmolive, Southern Comfort, Crocs, Peugeot and The Lord of the Rings. Around 200 projects for Clicked alone, 2007–2014.
- **Squirrel Design** (UK treehouse builders, client since 2016): brand identity, websites through several redesigns, video loops from drone footage, and a play-equipment planning tool (custom content types, REST API, tiered pricing).
- **Carbon Conscious Clothing** (UK fashion brand): brand identity and billboard concepts, then a WooCommerce shop on a custom theme.
- **Centro Psicologia Castelli Romani** (Italy): full identity (logo, signage, business cards, letterhead) and a WordPress site; restored the site after a security compromise.
- **Other sites:** Jackdaw Play Therapy (UK) and a bilingual English/Italian site for an English teacher.
- **Hosting:** I run a Linux VPS for these clients. In 2026 I migrated six live sites from Ubuntu 18.04 to 26.04: one system user, PHP-FPM pool and database per site, nginx and Let's Encrypt HTTPS, with PHP 8 compatibility fixes for old plugins and themes.

Interactive Developer — Wheelhouse Creative

2003 – 2007

Flash/ActionScript, then JavaScript, PHP and MySQL, alongside Photoshop, Illustrator and After Effects, in a small agency where I worked across the whole creative process.

Lead Interactive Developer — Silverskin Creative Consultants

2000 – 2002

Lead developer on Flash projects, mainly in-house communications for Accenture: interactive video viewers with document launchers, and smooth, animated user interfaces.

Outside work

Making music (Linux studio: Ardour, synths, drum machines), photography and creative coding, cycling, paddleboarding (SUP), walking, travel and building things with my hands.