Carl Hobden

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PROFILE

Hands-on technical problem-solver with 16 years' experience independently running the full operations of a Brighton guest house, alongside an extensive personal track record building and maintaining home network, server, and smart-device systems. Comfortable troubleshooting networking issues (VLANs, subnetting, WiFi conflicts), running an always-on Windows Server, and developing custom hardware and software projects using ESP32 microcontrollers, Homey home automation, and AI-assisted development tools. Calm under pressure, self-taught, and used to fully owning problems from diagnosis through to resolution with no one else to hand off to. Now looking to move into a structured, 9-to-5 technical role.

KEY SKILLS

- Network troubleshooting: VLAN configuration, subnetting, DHCP/router setup, WiFi diagnostics
- Home server administration (Windows Server) — always-on services, uptime management
- Smart home / IoT systems: Homey Pro hub, device integration, automation flows
- Custom hardware: ESP32-based device builds, sensor integration, 3D-printed enclosures
- Software-assisted development: AI coding tools (Claude Code) across iOS/tvOS/watchOS projects
- Systematic fault-finding and root-cause diagnosis under real-world constraints
- Customer-facing communication — explaining technical issues clearly to non-technical people
- Independent working, prioritisation, and full ownership of outcomes
- Basic web/CMS management (WordPress), digital tools, booking/PMS systems

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Manager (Operations & Systems) — Brighton House Guest House

2010 – Present · Brighton

- Sole operator of a 16-room guest house, with full responsibility for all technical, administrative, and guest-facing systems — no support staff or IT department to fall back on.
- Managed and troubleshot the property's networking and booking/PMS systems, resolving issues independently.
- Migrated to an eero mesh network including PPPoE VLAN tagging, subnet configuration, and resolving a Homey Pro dual WiFi/Ethernet conflict via developer diagnostics.
- Ran a Windows Server for always-on personal and household services.
- Designed and deployed custom ESP32-based hardware controllers, integrating sensors and automation with a Homey smart home hub.
- Coordinated suppliers, contractors, and maintenance schedules, translating technical/practical issues into plain-language updates for stakeholders.
- Handled all guest communications and complaint resolution, staying calm and solution-focused under pressure.
- Managed pricing, availability, and digital listings; maintained and updated the property's WordPress website.

Graphic Designer — 3Sixty Magazine

2006 – 2009 · Brighton

- Produced print-ready artwork and digital design assets to strict publication deadlines.
- Maintained website content and provided basic IT and network support within the organisation.

Earlier Experience

Bar Manager, Legends Bar, Brighton (2003–2005) — staff supervision, stock control, cash reconciliation. Manager, Snax Pax Sandwich Shop, Hove (2002–2003) — daily operations and staff supervision. Assistant Manager, The Lamb Inn, Eastbourne (1996–2002) — progressed from entry-level to assistant manager across front and back of house.

PERSONAL TECHNICAL PROJECTS

- Built a fleet of custom ESP32-based LED controller devices from design through to deployment (Grumpy Duck brand).
- Full home network redesign and migration to eero 6+ mesh, including device fleet inventory and MAC-based renaming.
- Developed iOS/tvOS/watchOS app prototypes using AI-assisted development workflows.
- 3D printing (Flashforge Adventurer 5M) for functional prototypes and enclosures — PETG/PLA.

EDUCATION

- 3 A Levels: Mathematics, Photography, Graphic Design
- 10 GCSEs (grades A–C)

REFERENCES

Available on request.