

# SEAN CHRISTOPHER BURAK



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## OBJECTIVE

**A software engineer looking to utilize my strong technical, problem solving and communication skills in an environment where innovation, education and enjoyment are encouraged.**

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## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Engineering (Software):** McMaster University, Hamilton ON 1997-2001

- Graduate of the first Software Engineering class at McMaster
- Focus was on software design principles and documentation (independent of programming language)
- Participated in group work, often undertaking a leadership position
- Earned scholarships in Year I and Year IV
- Developed a software facial recognition system through all stages from market research to final product, earning a second place award from IBM Canada for our group's final product
- Created a Public Key Directory Server/Client system in Java
- Developed software (in C) capable of playing the 'Stratego' board game
- Built a hardware alarm system using VHDL on a programmable logic board

**OAC Graduate (Ontario Scholar):** Ridley College, St. Catharines ON 1992 - 1997

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Associate Engineer:** Rogers Cable, Inc *Present employer, since July 2001*

- Tested and verified software to be run on the digital cable box. Focused mainly on *Video on Demand* and *WebTV*
- Performed memory testing on the set top box to ensure that all services could co-exist on a customer's box while maintaining stability.
- Installed and Configured hardware and software for the head-end servers required for *VOD*, both in the lab and production environments.
- Learned SMIL in order to design and implement User Interfaces for *VOD*.
- Worked with many departments outside of engineering, including marketing and PR, technical service, content programming, and customer service.
- Established relationships with external vendors who provide Rogers with hardware and software for all interactive television services

**Sole Proprietor:** RelyOn *Operating since June 2001*

- Started and maintained all small business operations ([www.relyon.ca](http://www.relyon.ca)).
- Performed on-site hardware and software repairs to homes and businesses



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## STUDENT WORK EXPERIENCE

**PC Support:** SERCA Foodservice, Toronto *Summer 2000*

- Provided technical support to employees and customers province wide
- Commended for simplifying many time consuming tasks

**Sales Representative:** Future Shop, Hamilton *Part Time 1998-1999*

- Educated and assisted customers in their product purchases

**Site Inspector:** City of St. Catharines Engineering Department *Summer 1998*

- Carried sole responsibility for overseeing the summer sidewalk repair contract; assisted in monitoring the road repair contract

**Sailing Instructor:** Harbour West Sailing, Hamilton *Summers 1995 – 1997*

- Taught theoretical and practical skills to children and adults
- Evaluated students' piratical abilities on an ongoing basis.

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## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- *Operating Systems:* Daily work with all flavours of Windows (95/98/NT/2000/XP). Very comfortable with **UNIX**. Limited experience with **LINUX** and other smaller operating systems.
- *Applications:* Daily work with **Microsoft Office** and many other Microsoft packages. Familiar with many graphic design packages (especially **Paint Shop Pro, Photoshop**). Very fast learner with any software package.
- *Programming Languages:* Very comfortable with **C, VB, (X)HTML** and **SMIL**. Limited experience with **C++, CGI, MATLAB** and **VHDL**. Able to pick up new languages and syntax very quickly.

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## COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- *Group Work:* Teamwork, leadership and presentation skills attained through both work and school experience.
- *Sales:* Listening skills developed for accurate assessment of customers' needs. Educated the customers to ease their purchasing decisions.
- *PC Support:* Diffused stressful situations through attentiveness to each individual's problems. Provided solutions to people of all skill levels.
- *Teaching:* Communicated theory factually and effectively while responding to the needs of the students and providing feedback where necessary.

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## ADDITIONAL SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- Currently creating a custom GPS mapping UI in Visual Basic (based on the MS Mappoint API)
- Playing drums, guitar and more
- Various electronics projects involving soldering and wiring
- Sailing and navigation
- Fibreglass boat repair
- Live concert recording
- Working with digital video/audio
- Small engine repair
- National Coaching Theory I
- Live theatre technical production
- Avid mountain biker
- DVD creation (a/v capture and transcoding plus menu authoring)
- Providing computer support through my own business ([www.relyon.ca](http://www.relyon.ca))