

# Oliver Spindler

7D Webber Street  
London SE1 8PZ  
United Kingdom

+44 7763 166326  
[mail@oliverspindler.com](mailto:mail@oliverspindler.com)  
[oliverspindler.com](http://oliverspindler.com)

## Summary

Frontend and backend web developer with information architecture / UX design skills. Works independently, in pairs or larger teams. Solves problems, delivers quickly, loves details. Adaptable and self-motivated, effectively communicates with technical and non-technical audiences.

Specialises in Python/Django and advanced object-oriented JavaScript with HTML/CSS. Experience includes Actionscript 3 / Flash, PHP, software design, API design (JSON-RPC), version control (Mercurial, Subversion), databases (PostgreSQL, MySQL), Linux and web server admin.

Designs the structure and layout of (data-heavy) web sites and communicates them via sitemaps, wireframes and pixel-perfect mockups. Proficient user of Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign and OmniGraffle. Interested in data visualisation and implements data-driven vector graphics.

## employment

04/2011–07/2011 Sabbatical

Focused full-time on my PhD studies (see education section).  
Worked on web application prototype, developed in Django and JavaScript.

07/2009–03/2011 Onzo Limited, London, UK

User Interface Developer (contractual): 01/2011–03/2011  
User Interface Developer (permanent): 03/2010–01/2011  
Web Developer (permanent): 07/2009–03/2010

Onzo helps consumers understand their energy usage and utilities understand their customers. The company's first product is an in-home energy monitor with complimentary web service.

- Achievements:
- Integral part of an agile DSDM team in an award-winning R&D company.
  - Designed and implemented highly flexible consumer-facing energy management web solution. Created site structure, interaction concept and data visualisations. Implemented several iterations from early prototypes to initial production releases.
  - The solution's core is an object-orientated JavaScript framework, which is used by Onzo's own web solution but can also be integrated into web services of Onzo's utility customers. The framework transparently handles AJAX-based communication with the data analysis back end and client-side rendering of interactive, animated charts.
  - The Django-based website [myonzo.com](http://myonzo.com) is offered to Onzo retail customers. The site is fully re-brandable and is also used for trial offerings with potential new utility customers.
  - Extended and improved the existing software systems, which consist of a Python-based data analysis backend and the previous, externally developed Django-based website.
  - Implemented new [company website](#) using Wordpress and a heavily customised theme.
  - Served as advisor for data visualisation and interaction design questions.

Access to [myonzo.com](http://myonzo.com) is only available to Onzo customers. Please [contact me](#) if you would like to access my account in order to have a closer look.

[Company website](#)

since 05/2008

Vienna University of Economics and Business, University Library

Information architect and web developer for the library website  
Fixed-term part-time position: 05/2008–12/2008  
Consultancy: since 01/2009

The library website is the primary information portal for students and university staff with around 2 million page impressions per year.

- Achievements:
- Created new site structure based on an analysis of the existing website, user requirements and usage statistics. Communicated and iteratively improved the new structure via paper prototypes and Photoshop mockups.
  - Negotiated functional extensions of the university's content management system with the IT department, which enabled implementation of unique features for the library website.
  - Implemented features not offered by the content management system while retaining its visual appearance to optimise user experience. Conducted user testing sessions.
  - Created documentation for library staff. Gave regular progress reports in staff meetings.
  - The website structure and comprehensive documentation enabled effective content-related work by library staff. The new website was launched as planned in February 2009 and was positively received by staff and students.
  - Ongoing consultancy work. Most recent addition is a Django-based course registration system.

[Library website](#) [Example of custom CMS extension](#)

- 03/2008–06/2008  
and  
03/2007–06/2007
- Vienna University of Technology, Institute for Design & Assessment of Technology  
Tutor (teaching assistant, part-time) for interaction design module  
Supervision and support of students in a practical module taken by 100+ students each year.
- Achievements:
- Design of teaching material for students, both print and web, to facilitate student work. Visual design and programming of frameworks for joint presentation of student work.
  - Lectured on practical aspects, teaching Photoshop skills to students.
  - Assistance in preparation and execution of workshops. Initial assessment of student work.
- 01/2006–11/2006
- Institut33, Vienna  
Web developer and information architect (part-time)
- Achievements:
- Design & development of a web-based customer management software. Developed using XHTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP and MySQL. Followed an iterative approach to design, including prototyping sessions with company staff. The software provides e-mail newsletter functions and an overview over courses completed by customers.
  - Redesign of the company website. Created a new site structure and visual concept. Optimised user experience in a temporally and technologically constrained environment. The redesign was well received by customers, resulting in increased course registration via the website.
- 10/2004–10/2006
- Tricentis Technology & Consulting GmbH, Vienna  
Software tester (part-time) for a company specialising in automated software testing for enterprise customers. Worked on two projects; a Java based software with a web frontend for an insurance company, and an SAP solution for the oil industry.
- Achievements:
- Created test cases to test for various features, for which an understanding of the business context is necessary. The scenarios were developed in cooperation with business experts.
  - Transformed test cases into scripts, which were then executed by a robot. These scripts could be static or dynamically depending on the test case data.
  - Supervision and management of the test case portfolio in one project, eventually overseeing a smooth handover of the portfolio to customer staff.

## education

- Languages
- English: Fluent / near native, CPE Grade A (Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English)  
German: Native speaker
- since 10/2010
- PhD Computer Science (part-time) – University College London  
Topic: 'Affective Meaning on the Web'. Supervisor: Prof. Angela Sasse
- 10/2006–04/2009
- MSc Computer Science (distinction) – Vienna University of Technology, Austria
- Received achievement scholarships in years 1 and 2 for excellent academic results.
  - Master's thesis 'Affective space interfaces': [Summary in poster format](#) [Full thesis](#)  
The thesis examines the role of human emotions in interactive systems design.
  - Software [The Grimace Project](#): Flash-based web component, which convincingly displays human emotions through facial expressions of a comic-like face.
  - Developed concept, software architecture and ActionScript 3 implementation.  
An API allows full JavaScript control, while all configuration data is loaded from custom XML.
  - The project has been [highly praised by the author](#) of the implemented emotion model.
- 10/2007–01/2008
- Erasmus exchange – Leeds Metropolitan University, UK
- 03/2003–07/2006
- BSc Computer Science (2:1 equiv.) – Vienna University of Technology, Austria  
Bachelor thesis 'Managing music':
- Comparison of metadata strategies for management of digital music databases.
  - Developed web-based prototype which classifies music through semantic differentials.
- 10/2001–01/2003
- BA English – University of Vienna, Austria  
Completed 3 semesters
- 10/1995–06/2000
- Higher Technical Education Institute – HTL Leonding, Austria  
The secondary education form HTL permits students to acquire university entry qualification and professional training at the same time.  
Matura (A-Levels equivalent):  
English (A), Electronics and digital technology (A), High-frequency technology (A),  
German (A), Communications engineering (A), Final-year project (A)