

# DJ SCHWEND

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## INTRODUCTION

Fifteen years of experience creating elegantly simple and intuitive interactive products used by millions of consumers for software companies and the online world. I've worked for large corporations, small start-ups and have owned and operated my own design studio. I have a strong work ethic, like to have multiple projects on my plate, and get inspired finding solutions in my brain for complex, user-centered information design challenges. I'm serious, sometimes silly, always kind, and social when my work is done.

*Obsessed with details, music, architecture, airports, information design and wayfinding systems.*

## EXPERIENCE

### Research In Motion

**Since February 2011** **Senior User Interaction Designer**

Gist Product Unit. Building a BlackBerry application and working on social efforts across the BlackBerry ecosystem focused on Contacts.

*Likes reading Jonathan Safran Foer, Lisa St. Aubin de Teran, Michael Ondaatje, Jose Saramago, Haruki Murakami.*

### Gist.

**Oct 10 - Feb 11** **Senior User Experience Designer**

*Learn more about who you know.* Gist builds rich business profiles of your contacts by searching the internet and your social networks to bring all the information into one place - your mobile device, email client and the Gist.com web application. I designed a new version of the Gist iPhone application, yet to be released, and I'm working on a prototype for a radical redesign of the web application. Gist was acquired by Research in Motion in February 2011.

*Can't live without challenging projects, diversity, kindness, coffee, chocolate, weekends, sunshine and fresh air.*

### frog design

**Dec 08 - Oct 10** **Senior Interaction Designer**

frog design is a global innovation firm and a 40 year old brand. During my time at frog, I worked on a variety of projects with a focus on large-scale mobile device UI and mobile platforms. As a Senior Interaction Designer, I partnered with Creative Directors and Associate Creative Directors to lead and collaborate with other interaction designers, visual designers and technologists to accomplish project goals and present the work to clients at major milestones. My last project was with a team of 20+ designers located in both Seattle and Shanghai studios. We designed a touch-enabled device for the Chinese mid-tier market. The device has a customizable operating system and is targeted for release in May 2011.

*Favorite fonts: Helvetica, Arial, Bell Gothic, Mrs. Eaves, Andale Mono, Franklin Gothic, Futura. Emigre.*

Evri, inc.  
**June 07 – Sept 08** **Senior Interaction Designer, evri.com**  
Evri is building a semantic data graph of the web – analyzing content online to create meaningful profiles and relevant connections so you can understand more about what you just read, in context. A funded start-up that launched in September 2008, Evri has since grown and acquired Radar Networks. I worked with two other designers and was responsible for creating the initial product experience which included the website, a blog to communicate with potential content partners and widgets for placement on content sites. Working in a daily scrum process with the development team, we created use cases, product requirements documents, wireframes, Flash prototypes, and final designs within detailed functional specifications.

*Interested in learning Japanese and Italian languages, HTML5, Taiko drumming, wire sculpture and vinification.*

**Aug 03 – May 07** **Microsoft Corporation - Microsoft Exchange 2007**  
**User Interface Design Program Manager, Outlook Web Access**  
For four years, I was the User Interface Designer and Program Manager for Microsoft Exchange 2007 Outlook Web Access, the web version of Microsoft Outlook available to Exchange clients on IE6+ browsers. My work included design and functional specification for the overall user experience of OWA including collaboration with Office Outlook on key features such as Sign In, E-Mail Reading Pane, Conversation View, Calendar, Search, Categories, Address Name Resolution, Out of Office Assistant and more.

*Recent favorite music: The Antlers, Bon Iver, Chromatics, Desire, Radiohead, Vetiver, Washed Out, Zola Jesus.*

**Jan 01 – June 03** **SOFTWARE + INTERNET USER INTERFACE DESIGNER**  
**Independent Contractor**  
During this time I was working offsite while employed part-time by BEA Systems designing the user interface of WebLogic Workshop, a development environment for creating Web services with Java. The rest of my time was divided among several freelance design projects and skiing in the backcountry of beautiful British Columbia, where I was living. Other clients included Cingular Wireless, Concur Technologies, Filter Talent, and Motorola.

*Likes swimming, biking, running, kayaking, skiing, hiking, walking, eating, breathing, reading, sleeping late.*

**Jan 99 – Jan 01** **SURFACE DESIGN GROUP, LLC**  
**Owner/Designer**  
Surface Design Group, LLC was formed in January 1999. For two glorious years, Surface was an interaction design studio that stayed awake all hours to create software experiences and internet applications. Surface was a self-funded company comprised of myself, two other principal partners and a small staff of designers and technologists. Our clients included AtomFilms, Cranium, McAfee, Microsoft, Network Associates, Valve Software.

*Also worked as a stewardess on the high seas, caption writer for stock photos, wedding florist and cocktail mixologist.*

**Oct 96 – Dec 98** **MICROSOFT CORPORATION**  
**Designer - Microsoft Money**  
As part of the product design team for Microsoft Money, my responsibilities included feature design and functionality definition with Program Managers, collaboration with Developers for implementation of a new, custom user interface and creation and maintenance of an internal Design Team web site. Products included Money 98, Money 99, and Money 99 Home & Business Edition.

*Tourist in China, Croatia, England, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Scotland, Spain, Wales.*

## EDUCATION

### SEATTLE CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Sept 89 - June 91

#### **Associate Arts Degree in Commercial Art, Advertising and Design**

This critically-acclaimed graphic design program comprised of multidisciplinary instruction of photography, offset printing, art history, figure and perspective drawing, painting techniques in oil, acrylic, gouache and watercolor mediums, typography, hand-lettering, calligraphy, desktop publishing and traditional print-ready production methods using Rubylith and press-type, was geared toward preparing students for jobs in the graphic design industry. We worked continuously over two years on several major projects at once, that would ostensibly result in pieces for our professional portfolios.

*Mac + Windows. Expert: Adobe Photoshop CS5, OmniGraffle and Microsoft Office. Hacker: HTML, JavaScript and CSS*

## PORTFOLIO

### [WWW.DJSCHWEND.COM](http://WWW.DJSCHWEND.COM)

A small sampling of images and descriptions for some of my projects can be found here. To see more work or for a list of references, please call or email me.

*Flexible hours for interview scheduling, two weeks notice needed to start new full-time work.*