

David Portabella

Born in 1976 (34 years old)
Spanish (Swiss B permit)
Single

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Overview and objective

From 1994 to 2000, I obtained a M.S. and B.S. in **Telecommunications Engineering** from the Technical University of Catalonia (UPC), **Barcelona**.
During this time, I have also been working part-time in various IT projects and companies.

From 2003 to 2007 I did a **PhD in Computer Science** at the **EPFL**. I have researched how to improve user confidence in decision support systems for electronic catalogs, e.g. how to assist in e-commerce, deciding where to go for holidays or deciding your vote in an election. I have also been **teaching assistant** and I have **supervised various student projects**.

Since 2007 I am running a **start-up** in web information extraction and databases, and a medical device start-up since 2010.

I speak English, French, Spanish and Catalan.

Main technical expertise:

- Software developer
- Database systems
- Information Extraction
- Signal processing

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/dportabella>

Professional Experience

Since March 2010: Starting a medical start-up based on signal processing.

Since March 2007: DB4ALL, CEO & Founder

I created a company, based in Switzerland and Barcelona, in the domain of decision support systems, web information extraction and databases. Business, team and software developer.

January-March 2007: EPFL

Implemented a computer vision solution for an aerial unmanned vehicle.

November 2003 to January 2007: EPFL, PhD Student & Research assistant

PhD thesis under the supervision of Dr. Martin Rajman. I researched how to improve user confidence in decision support systems for electronic catalogs, e.g. how to assist in shopping, deciding where to go for holidays or deciding your vote in an election.

I supervised student projects and I was teaching assistant in the Natural Language Processing course and the Java programming course.

August 2002 to November 2003: EPFL, Research assistant

Research on multi-agent systems, semantic web, web services and dialogue systems.

I collaborated to the IM2.MDM project (Interactive Multimodal Interface Management, Multimodal Dialogue Management) and the INSPIRE project (Infotainment management with speech interaction via remote-microphones and telephone interfaces).

I also was teaching assistant in a Java programming course.

Aug 2000 for 2 months: Anglatecnic (Barcelona), Project Manager

Anglatecnic is a company in Barcelona funded by Enric Torres i Feixas, working on Professional Broadcasting and IT.

I supervised two Internet Projects:

- A system to view the weather through Internet TV (Freedomland Italia)
- A system to view the weather in Wap Mobiles (Telefónica Espanya)

Some tools used: Java, XML/XSL, Apache web server, Ms SQL Server

Then I was given a grant and I moved to Switzerland.

Oct 1999 for 1 year: TALP Research Center (Barcelona), Project Assistant

Collaborated to the SALA project under the supervision of Dr. Asunción Moreno. SALA is a Speech Data project across Latin America with the objective of building a speech database for speech recognition.

I developed a Speech Labeling Tool based in Matlab for the TALP Research Center.

Some tools used: Apache, PHP3, MySQL and JDK 1.2.2.

Aug 1998 for 2 months: Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Bogotá, Colombia)

I worked on a research project about Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems under the supervision of Dr. Pedro Raúl Vizcaya Guarín.

1994–1999: Tot Micro (Manresa, Barcelona): Part time job

Tot Micro is a company in Manresa (Barcelona) which specializes in computer networks and electronic industrial solutions. I worked part time and summers as Technical Support. Installed local networks (Windows NT), C++ and Web instructor, and Software consultant.

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Education

Nov 2005 for 6 months: VentureLab

I followed the course "Venture Challenge" about Entrepreneurship, Business plan, Financing, Marketing, Staffing and PR. We successfully created a real business plan.

Nov 2001 for 9 months: Graduate School in Computer Science at EPFL

Research project on "Large Scale Semantic Resources: using the EDR Electronic Dictionary" under the supervision of Dr. Martin Rajman.

Courses: Natural Language Processing, Computer Vision, Virtual Reality, Object Oriented Technologies, Automatic Speech Recognition, Advanced Digital Image Processing, Distributed Algorithms, Intelligent Agents.

Oct 2000 for 6 months: Diploma project at EPFL

Logic Systems Laboratory, working with Neural Networks and Genetic Algorithms, under the supervision of Pr. Eduardo Sanchez.

1994 - 2000: M.S. and B.S. in Telecommunications Engineering,
Technical University of Catalonia (UPC), Barcelona

Honours in Speech Recognition, Programming and Computer Architecture & Operating Systems. Some courses: Algorithms, Signal Processing, Economics, Law of Telecommunications, Mathematical Software, Programming, Communications Theory, Optic and Radio Communications, Data Transmission, Speech Recognition, Network architectures, Electronics, Cryptography, Physics Relativity, Neural Networks, Genetic algorithms

Skills

- Project manager
- Web developer (HTML, CSS, Javascript, Ajax, ExtJs, PHP, JSP, XML/XSLT)
- Java, C/C++, python and other scripting languages
- Distributed processing: Hadoop/Map Reduce (basic)
- Software collaboration tools and related (Subversion, Eclipse)
- Commercial and open-source databases: MySQL, IBM DB2 pureXML, OAI-PMH
- Natural Language Processing and Web Information Extraction
- Audio and image signal processing
- Semantic Web languages and tools
- Specialized mathematical (Matlab) and electronics software (PCB Eagle, Proteus)
- Ms Windows (+Cygwin), Linux and Mac OSX

Languages

Catalan and Spanish: Mother tongue

English: First Certificate

French: Fluid

Honors and Achievements

- 2008: 100k CHF grant for start-up creation
- 2002: Fellowship from Department of Computer Science, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology for Graduate School
- 1999: Fellowship from Department of Signal Theory and Communications, Polytechnic University of Catalonia for SALA project
- 1998: Fellowship from Spanish Agency of International Cooperation, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores and from Universidad Pontificia Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia
- 1994: Won a CIRIT price for developing a Karnaugh algorithm software at the age of 15