

**Akshar Koulaev** (You can call me Alex, and it's not KOVALEV.)

Mobile: 514-267-8869

Email: [captain@zivag.com](mailto:captain@zivag.com)

## EDUCATION

- 2000 - 2001**                      **Center for Continuing education, Concordia University**  
Montreal  
Software development for the World Wide Web  
Unfinished(6 courses out of 10)
- 1997 - 1998**                      **Vainer College**  
Montreal  
Attestation of Collegial Studies in Microcomputer Techniques.
- 1983 - 1989**                      **North Caucasian Mining and Smelting Institute**  
Vladikavkas, Russia.  
Ore Mineral Prospection (University level)

## EMPLOYMENT

**2000** March -  
Present

### **SQA Technician**

Matrox Graphics  
1055 St-Regis Boulevard, Dorval, Quebec

#### **Win2K - XP environment:**

- Hardware and software compatibility testing on pre-released versions of OEM PCs.
- Developed several testing utilities in DHTML and C. Was responsible for driver CD release testing.
- Wrote boot manager for multilingual Windows installation (batch file)
- Testing of Matrox frame grabbing hardware and software on MS Operating systems,
- Working with different kinds of digital and analog security cameras - color and black and white.
- Working knowledge (advanced user/pro level) of Adobe Photoshop, Corel Photopaint, Office apps (Microsoft, IBM, Corel, Sun), HTML editors, sound editors. Some experience with video editors.

#### **Linux environment:**

- Testing of graphics driver on numerous MGI videocards including special cards for medicine, IP cards for servers, air traffic monitoring and railroad control. Mostly multy-screen environment.
- Testing software packages - GPL and proprietary. Gimp, OpenOffice, Blender, Inkscape, VMWare - to name a few.
- Testing thinclients with rdesktop. All of the above on all major distributions RedHat (RHEL and Fedora), SuSE(SLES), Mandrake - Mandriva, Ubuntu, Gentoo, Slackware and Debian), having several releases under testing - kernel versions 2.4.18 to 2.6.31, X versions 4.3.0 to 1.6.2
- Writing shell scripts to automate testing on multiple systems, quickly change X settings, run robustness tests.
- Creating custom modelines.
- Providing tech. support to corporate clients, training students, educating co-workers who need to convert to Linux.

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## **EMPLOYMENT (cont-d)**

**1999** December -

**2000** March

### **Field Technician**

Optimal Robotics (U-Scan)

Montreal, Quebec

Intensive travelling to the US. Main responsibilities: installation and start up of self-checkout (U-Scan) terminals in chain stores like Wal-Mart, Meijer, Kroeger, Bi-Lo, A&P, etc. Installation and start up consists of setting up five NT workstations with numerous peripherals (like bill acceptors, bill dispensers, coin acceptors and dispensers, two types of scales, scanner, video camera) on two networks - internal network for given cluster (four customer stations and operator station) and store network Unix or IBM 4680-90. Troubleshooting hardware in NT environment - DigiBoard (ISA and PCI), DigiBox, VideoMUX board, multiple network adapters (two per station), sound and video adapters. Troubleshooting network in multi platform environment. Techsupport during startup. (Reason for leaving - constantly on the road instead of 40% of time that was on the contract.)

**1999**

March - December

### **SQA Technician**

Matrox Graphics

Dorval, Quebec

Installation and reinstallation of different video sound and network adapters, making sure that there is no conflict with chipset and existing peripherals. Installation and employment of different software (mostly graphics related - like CorelDraw, Adobe Illustrator, Bryce, Ulead, DVD players, games, various benchmarks like ZD Winbench99, Bapco, Winstone, etc.) and testing if driver and accompanying diagnostic software work fine with all that software installed. Installation and reinstallation of Windows95-98, NT 4, RedHat Linux 6.0 mostly in multy boot environment, setting up network, printers, sound devices, etc. Filling in numerous checklists as well as documenting bugs in database. Almost all the machines I dealt with were the latest pre-released samples from leading OEMs like HP, IBM, Compaq and Gateway.

**1998**

September-December

### **Computer Technician** ( Trainee-ship semester after the college)

Henry Birks & Sons

Montreal, Quebec.

Installation and setup of modems, network cards, soundboards, CD ROMS, RAM, HDDs, ZIP, JAZZ and other external and internal peripherals. Setting up computers on the three-platform network - NT, Novel and AS400. NT administering. AS400 administration and maintenance. Design and development of Access database for company PC inventory. Participation in development of Outlook application that automates coordination between help desk and technicians who provide an actual help(documenting, forwarding and archiving each call).

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## **EMPLOYMENT (non IT-related)**

**1996 - 1997**

**Electrician**

Ferro Technique Ltd.  
Montreal, Quebec

Integrated with a group of electricians in the fabrication of control panels, and wiring of state of the art wire handling machinery. Was involved in PLC programming, motor drives programming and setup, wiring of control panels, AC, DC and servomotors, encoders and tachogenerators. Installed electrical/electronic components on the frames of the machines and performed quality control, start-up and troubleshooting at a customer site. Took an active part in redoing the workshop main wiring (600 W)

**1995 - 1996**

**Maintenance technician**

Healthy Tradition Bakeries  
Montreal, Quebec

Performed technical support of equipment (ovens, mixers, dosers etc.) shipped and received merchandise, trained new staff.

**1992 - 1995**

**Stonemason**

Russia

Co-owned small construction business.

**1986 - 1992**

**Mineral Prospecting Technician**

North-Ossetian Geological Expedition, Vladikavkaz, Russia

As a member of the prospecting group worked in mountain areas performing rock drilling and blasting on the day surface and underground. Was promoted in six months to a technician, and in two years to master technician. Constantly dealt with unpredictable and dangerous situations concerning the safety of people and the environment.

**1984 - 1986**

**Pointer**

Military service, anti-aircraft short range.

## **LANGUAGES**

English, French, Russian.

## **HOBBIES**

Cycling, music, martial arts, reading, graphic design.

## **REFERENCES**

Upon request