

# ASIL GERARD SYLVESTER

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## Background Summary

- Certified Ethical Hacker
- Dedicated IT professional with strong multi-skill set
- Over 8 years of experience working with international and national organizations
- Excellent analytical and problem solving skills
- Strong interpersonal and leadership skills
- Management and support service abilities : Managing FAO's AGROVOC revision and refinement work at ICRISAT

## Career Objective

An exciting and challenging assignment that would provide me the scope to learn and use emerging technologies and to utilize my IT skills for the betterment of the society.

## Expertise

- Semantic web technologies
- Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D) initiatives
- Internet and Network security
- Web services – programming and standards

## Education

**Post Graduate Diploma in Cyber Law and Intellectual Property Rights** from the *University of Hyderabad, India*; graduated in June 2007 with Distinction (87%)

**Master of Information Technology** from the *University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB), Philippines*; graduated in April 2005 with a GPA of 1.7

**Bachelor of Science in Computer Science** from *St. Joseph's College, Bharadidasan University, India*; graduated in First Class (74%)

## Technical Highlights

Experience with languages such as PHP, VB.NET, JAVA, C/C++, C# and ASP.NET

Mainly used databases such as MS-SQL server, MySQL and PostgreSQL as backends (experience in using MS-ACCESS)

Worked on operating systems ranging from Microsoft Windows 9x/200x/NT to GNU/Linux flavors such as RedHat, Debian, Fedora, SuSe, Ubuntu and Sun's Open Solaris

Have used web authoring tools such as Ms-Frontpage, Dreamweaver, Nu and Netscape composer extensively

Briefly worked on messaging frameworks such as SOAP, XML and Jabber (for instant message communication)

Have used Unified Modelling Language (UML) to a great extent for documenting artifacts of software intensive systems

Indepth experience in Learning Management Systems (LMS/LCMS & CMSes) and Content repositories like applications such as Atutor, Moodle, Plone on Zope, Mediawiki, Wordpress and Confluence

Supported and maintained High Performance Computing clusters (HPC)

## Professional Experience

Currently positioned as **Systems Officer – Research Informatics** at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT, <http://www.icrisat.org/>) at its headquarters in Hyderabad, India **since July 2005**.

Here, I am incharge of leading a research informatics team, reporting to the Head of Knowledge Management and Sharing Group. I conduct training programs on emerging IT related technologies in e-Learning and content repositories for NARES (National Agricultural Research and Extension Service), SAU (State Agricultural Universities) and other national partners and organizations

As consultant for a National Agriculture Innovation Project of the Govt. Of India under the Knowledge Management component titled “Re-designing the farmer-extension-agricultural research/education continuum in India with ICT-mediated Knowledge Management”

Project In-charge for the Food and Agricultural Organization’s (FAO) AGROVOC revision and refinement work carried out at ICRISAT

Was also involved in developmental work in Afghanistan as techical lead in a research project titled “Research into the Development and Effective Use of ICT-enabled Rural Extension System in Afghanistan” which was jointly implemented by ICRISAT and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Afghanistan

Working on innovative research projects using emerging technologies like Topic Maps, Concept Maps, OWL, RDF and XML/XSLT for agricultural resource integration. Research papers in international conferences and journals have been published;

Assisting the Information Systems Unit (ISU) of ICRISAT in developing, launching and maintaining secure intranet applications; also helped integrate legacy applications by using web services based technology and in converting standalone applications to web based applications for the global intranet of ICRISAT

Job responsibilities also include guiding final year college students for their IT-based thesis and project work carried out at ICRISAT

As an internal consultant for the bioinformatics department, involved in the design and architecture of various bioinformatics application development.

I am also actively working on integrating Web 2.0 based applications such as blogs, wiki and social networking tools for knowledge sharing and management at ICRISAT. I serve as administrator for <http://vasatblog.icrisat.org>, <http://vasatwiki.icrisat.org>,

<http://blog.icrisat.org> and <http://wiki.icrisat.org>. Web designer of <http://vasat.icrisat.org>

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Earlier worked as **Collaborator** at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI, <http://www.irri.org>) at Los Baños in the Philippines from **April 2004 to May 2005**.

Done as part of the Master of IT final project, jobs included programming Web services and restructuring the International Crops Information System (ICIS) programs working on ODBC technology to also work on web services driven technology.

Contributed and participated in the discussions leading to the architecture of the International Crops Information System (ICIS) and also closely involved in the development of ICIS based web services.

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Entrepreneurial experiences include starting Germic Systems & Software at Chennai, India on May 1999. Functioned as CEO/Proprietor till March 2003.

Germic Systems and Software was a firm specializing in creating tailor made software solutions and involved in the sales and service of IBM PCs. Managed and maintained a clientele consisting of corporate firms and home PC users. Job responsibilities included providing efficient customer support on-time, marketing and creating new avenues for expanding business and overseeing software developmental activities.

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Between June 1997 and April 1999 worked briefly as executive at Digiscope – a multimedia production firm and then as Customer Service Engineer at Zenith Computers at Chennai, India.

## Consultancy Experience

**Consultant** for Bioversity International (<http://www.bioversity.org>) on the development of a CGIAR-wide manual to ***Evaluate the Impact of Your Website***

Available at: [ictkm.cgiar.org/archives/Evaluating\\_the\\_Impact\\_of\\_Your\\_Website.pdf](http://ictkm.cgiar.org/archives/Evaluating_the_Impact_of_Your_Website.pdf)

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**IT Consultant** for World Vegetable Center's (AVRDC, <http://www.avrdc.org>) regional center for South Asia at ICRISAT since August 2006.

As part of the consultancy - designed, developed and maintaining their website <http://www.ivs2006.org> and <http://www.avrdc-rca.org>

Contact : Dr. M L Chadha, Director-Regional Center for South Asia (RCSA), Tel : (+91) 40-30713755, Mobile : (+91) 9949503830,  
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**Program Consultant** for Loyola Academic and Technical Institutions at Madurai, India since January 2006.

Consultancy responsibilities include developing and designing ICT4D project and advisory on digitizing course modules for the Loyola Community College.

Contact : Fr. Stephen J. Muthu., SJ.,LL.B.,M.A., Ph.D, Sustainable Development and Media Consultant & Administrator and Dean of Studies, Madurai Community College, Mobile: (+91) 9444052174, Email : stephenjmuthusj@gmail.com

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Served as **IT Consultant** for Mother Ignacia National Social Apostolate Center (MINSAC, <http://www.minsac.ph>) with office at Metro Manila, Philippines from April 2003 to May 2005.

Job responsibilities included installing the local network, consultancy on purchase pertaining to IT hardware and software as well as redesigning their website, hosting and maintaining it. Offering technical seminars and updates for their staff

Contact : Rev. Sr. Elizabeth Dejan, Ex Director-MINSAC (Currently Rev. Sr. Ma. Rosviminda Ochoa, RVM. ), Tel: (+63) 2-4138713, Mobile: (+63) 9165031976, Email: minsac@minsac.ph

## Papers Presented

(1) Co-author of *“Towards a Novel Content Organization in Agriculture using Semantic Technologies: a study with Topic Maps as a tool”* published in the Special Issue on Agricultural Metadata and Semantics of the International Journal of Metadata, Semantics and Ontologies (IJMSO), Volume 4 - Issue 1/2 - 2009. At : [http://www.inderscience.com/search/index.php?action=record&rec\\_id=26255&prevQuery=&ps=10&m=or](http://www.inderscience.com/search/index.php?action=record&rec_id=26255&prevQuery=&ps=10&m=or) (DOI: 10.1504/IJMSO.2009.026255)

(2) Co-author of *“Semantic Web Tools in support of Agricultural Content Representation & Retrieval”* presented at the Web2ForDev International Conference, 25-27 September, 2007 at Rome, Italy. Available at <http://www.web2fordev.net/>

(3) Co-author of *“Videoconferencing: Experiments to Bridge Farmer-Expert Gap”* presented at the Annual National Conference of the Indian Society for Extensions Education at Gujarat, India. (Winner of the *Best Paper Presentation Award*)

(4) First author and presenter of "*Content Reusability in eLearning : ICRISAT's experiments with LMS*", at the third International Conference on eLearning for Knowledge-based Society at Bangkok, Thailand. Paper published in the Special issue of IJCM (International Journal of the Computers, the Internet and Management) and is available at <http://www.ijcim.th.org/v14nSP1/pdf/p12.1-5-fin-38.pdf>

(5) Co-author of "*The International Rice Information System (IRIS): An Evolving Resource Cross-Linking Rice Germplasm, Phenotype, Genomics And Genotype Information*" presented at the Plant & Animal Genomes XIII Conference at San Diego, California. Available online at [http://www.intl-pag.org/13/abstracts/PAG13\\_P871.html](http://www.intl-pag.org/13/abstracts/PAG13_P871.html)

(6) First author of "*Information Society and Glocalization*" – viewed from a digital divide and cyberspace perspective for IAMCR (International Association for Media and Communication Research) conference at Taipei, Taiwan. Available online at [http://www.tu-dresden.de/gsn\\_iamcr/virtual\\_conf/homepage\\_virtual\\_conference.html](http://www.tu-dresden.de/gsn_iamcr/virtual_conf/homepage_virtual_conference.html)

## Professional Training

**Diploma in Computer Hardware Maintenance** from Microcode, Trichy

**Diploma in Computer Networks and Internet Technologies** through EI-Net an IIT-Kharagpur's distance learning program

**JAVA and e-Com training** through Radiant Software Limited, India

Briefly attended a training program on **Certificate in Testing Tools** through CMC Ltd, India

## Certifications and Awards

**First** in college in academics, 1st year B.Sc., (Bachelor's Degree at St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli, TamiNadu, India)

**First** in Major (Computer Science) during B.Sc., (Bachelor's Degree at St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli, TamiNadu, India)

**Brainbench certified** in

Computer Forensic (U.S), Network Security, VB 6.0 Programmer, High IT aptitude programmer, Web programmer, Certified in Internet computer concepts, Computer

configuration and maintenance, Computer Industry knowledge, English vocabulary and Masters in Computer PC essential user. (Transcript ID: 543395)

### Extra Curricular activities

- 'Tech Navigator' columnist for "SAMACHAR", a monthly magazine, since September 2004.
- Involved in writing technical articles for various IT/programming related websites such as <http://www.codeproject.com>, <http://www.dotnetspider.com>
- Was member of the Advisory Board (2004-2005) for 'SAMACHAR.' a monthly magazine published by the Philippines Indian Seva Foundation from Manila, Philippines.
- Invited as resource person to the College of Development Communication, University of the Philippines for delivering a seminar for their graduate students.
- General Secretary of the International Students Association (ISA) at the University of the Philippines, Los Baños, Philippines during the year 2004.
- Participated in various inter-collegiate competitions and won many awards and certifications.

### Personal details

Born on : 26-December-1976

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Nationality : Indian

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**Dr. V. Balaji**

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