John M Ostrowick, PhD

Curriculum Vitae

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Cover Letter

I am a highly motivated and talented person who wishes to place the full force of his abilities into serving the needs of the country and humanity in general. I am future-oriented, keen on modernisation and increased efficiency of business processes, management and workflow, research-based interventions, and creation of quality jobs, by means of sharing my skills.

I have extensive experience in ICT, including computer programming, as well as strategy and strategic thinking, which I have done in various posts.

My academic background includes a broad range of topics. My PhD deals with applying Bayesian statistical methods to evidence in support of hypotheses. I have eight peer-reviewed academic publications, excluding my theses, and have acted as a reviewer for four academic journals including the South African Computer Journal and others.

I am a very fast worker, focused, efficient, knowledgeable, and able to research, read, and process, large amounts of information rapidly. I like to use my computing skills to increase process efficiencies and automate workflows.

My teaching experience includes a formal teachers' diploma (HdipEd Phys. Sci) and I have taught semester courses for the University of the Witwatersrand (2015/16) in my research areas. These courses were well-rated by the students. I also taught short courses at Wits for Computer Science honours (operating systems component) and the National Bioinformatics Network (also under aegis of Wits). I've developed curricula before and content before, primarily for Department of Basic Education where I worked 2013-18.

I am currently in a directorate role in Department of Justice but I am looking to move back to academia.

Personal Details

Full name	John Montague Ostrowick
Driver's License	Motorcar
ID	730427 5040 086
Year of birth	1973
Residence	Johannesburg, South Africa
Nationality	South African
Current Employment	Commission of Inquiry into State Capture: Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
Telephone and Email	+27 82 979 6812, john@ostrowick.co.za
Family	Married, two children.
Security Clearance	Top Secret (2018), valid at present.

Education

I am enthusiastic about learning new skills and hence have a range of qualifications over various topics rather than a narrow focus. I consider myself a lifelong learner.

I am familiar with ITIL, PMBOK, TOGAF, KING IV and COBIT and use them in my daily work where relevant.

Institution	Certification and Date
National School of Government	• Nyukela (Senior Management) qualification, 2020. See http://www.ostrowick.co.za/share//nyukela.m4v and http://www.ostrowick.co.za/share//work_samples.zip • Achieved over 90% for all exercises
Udemy	• Introductory Business Administration Course (2017) (Short course called "MBA in One"); • Axelos Prince2 Project Management Foundation (2018) (Short course); • Introduction to Linux (2020). Taken as a skills refresher.

University of Cape Town	PhD in Philosophy (2017)
Edinburgh University	Accepted for PhD (Sept 2008-2009). Transferred to UCT.
The ITAA	Transactional Analysis 101 (August 2008).
The University of the Witwatersrand	MA by dissertation: Philosophy (part-time) (2001-2006) dealing with neuroscience and law
Tangent Systems	Ethical Hacking and Security (2004). Advanced Linux (86%) (2003).
The University of the Witwatersrand	**2000-2001** BA Honours, Philosophy (part-time). **1995-1997** BA (1997), Psychology and Philosophy. First-class prize 1995, and in 1997 in Philosophy of Science. Firsts for most subjects. **1991-1994** Higher Diploma in Education, specialising in Physical Science, Mathematics, Biology and Education (1994). Qualified to teach at high-school level. Firsts for Physics (some semester courses) and Education/Educational psychology (all years). Registered at SACE as an educator.
Jeppe High School for Boys	University entrance qualification (Matriculation) (1990) Prefect in charge of attendance records (1989-1990)

Skills

I have a very wide range of skills and I consider myself highly competent in most of them. I use most of my skills in most of my roles. For example, my reports are not only well-researched (research skill) but attractive due to my desktop publishing skills. My ICT skills I use on a daily basis to ensure efficiency e.g. automation of repetitive tasks, e.g. data gathering and analysis.

Skill	Details
Management	

Management	• 2006-2007 (managing a junior technician) • 2007, 2010-2013 (managing development teams) • 2011-2012 (managing editors and academic reviewers) • 2017-18 (managing an intern) • 2000-2003, 2016-2018 (housing estates) • Deputy director 2013-2018 - DBE ## CIO - DOJ&CD - 2018-
Budgeting	• Reduced Operation Phakisa budget by approx. R100bn through judicious reprioritisation of initiatives. • Budgeted for software and hardware requirements in current CIO role (Budget approx. R100m). • Aware of government MTEF cycles, MTSF, PFMA, etc.
Strategy and modernisation	• 2013-18 (DBE) redesigning the ICT strategy, project management processes, and business processes, for the DBE • Developed ICT security policy for my current role as CIO as well as Distaster Recovery (DR) strategy • Appointed Head of Strategy for an NPO and marketing strategy for another NPO • Deployed workflow modernisation for DBE using SmartGov
Project Management	2016-2018 Produced templates, and trained officials, in National Treasury's PMBOK-based PPM method.

ICT skills

Programming	• Since 1983 • Late 1990s: Pascal project published on Apple's website • Daily since 1996: Linux/GNU Bash • Weekly since 2008: PHP, JavaScript, CSS, HTML, MySQL, Wordpress • 2014 built a digital PDF signing process. • Most recently: Manage and maintain code for Commission's website (www.statecapture.org.za).

System administration (Server software)	• Since 1993 • 1995-2008 Apple and Linux - all protocols including DNS, websites, etc. • 2010 onwards: Linux hosting for small web clients • 2019 onwards: VMWare ESXI, Windows Server, Exchange, and others. However, these activities were first managed by my team and I intervene when needed, e.g. when security threats were not resolved, emails were getting lost, etc. Familiar with advanced KATA (Kaspersky) platform • Competent at detecting and mitigating attacks against Linux systems, especially DDoS, without specialised software.
Software (Desktop)	• Since 1986 • 1988 onwards: Office suites including MS Office • 1993 onwards: Adobe suite including inDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator and similar (Quark, GIMP, Inkscape, etc) • 1996 onwards: Open source solutions e.g. LibreOffice, LaTeX, Ghostscript, etc. • 2012 onwards: Video editing, mostly iMovie • 2018 onwards: PDF editing and manipulation/ restructuring, mostly Ghostscript and related • 2021: OB Studio. Novice level.
Hardware	• Since 1983 • Confident about making adjustments to hardware. Most recent demonstration of skill: reprogramming a boot ROM. https://johnsmactips.blogspot.com/2021/03/erasing-firmware-password.html • Have upgraded and modified all classes of machines except "smart" devices.

Teaching and Training

Teaching	• 1991-1994 Trainee teacher (Physical Science, Mathematics, Biology, high school level) • 1997 Taught digital art at Wits, with digital assessments • 2013 Used materials I had made previously to create part of the Mind the Gap content (on DBE website) • 2015, 2016 Lecturing at Wits (Philosophy of science and others). http://philosophylectureswits.blogspot.com
Training	• Taught the SmartGov solution in 2017-18 to DBE officials • Trained co-workers in ICTs (2019)

Humanities-related

Artistic	• 1986 onwards: Skilled at watercolour and pencil work. Art for Matric. See https://www.instagram.com/johnostrowick/ • 1993 onwards: Desktop Publishing
Research	• 1993: Prepared research report on Apartheid education system which I subsequently presented again (1995) at Wits to the Sociology department • 2017 onwards: Various journal publications, see below under Academic section. See academia.edu, researchgate.net, and publons.com for my academic works and my journal reviews. • 2016 onwards: Researching ICT solutions for Operation Phakisa and NECT
Social work	• Rebuilding Nompondo Primary (1993) • Currently assist several NGOs • Assisted in Soweto with power theft issue (2020) • Produced a large FAQ on Covid-19 to fight fake news • Participated in Covid-19 vaccine trial

Employment History

Employer	Dates and activities
Department of Justice and Constitutional Development	*August 2018 onwards* Appointed to Commission of Inquiry into State Capture as Chief Information Officer, Director of Document Management, Call Centre and Legal Library head. • Management and supervision of a team of approx. 10 staff • Drawing up budgets for highly advanced technology platforms • Designing and implementing parts of those platforms • Managing relationships with suppliers • Developing tenders • Training the staff in ICTs and developing the necessary business processes • Introducing the mandatory requirements from DPSA, such as OMF, SOPs, Service Standards, Project Management, PMDS, etc., as well as asset management procedures • Assisting staff with IT problems when the team is not able to resolve. Training the IT team. • Identifying risks and risk management in the ICT space. Advising on security approach, drafted the security policy. • Assisting with logistics around physical security, mostly in an advisory role but also in implementing technologies. • Developing and implementing the National Archives file plan which was not present in the organisation. • Developing and initiating a legal library project to retain archives of legal documents. • Assisting developers with technicalities to make a searchable archive/database of legal documents. • Identifying ways to protect documents digitally and making them traceable by means of a document-related technology which I developed in 2014. • **Covid-19:** Assisting coordinate judicial hearings under Covid-19 using digital technologies. Developed Covid-19 reporting database. Manage the online hearings using videoconferencing and OBS software.

Department of Basic Education (DBE)	*March 2016-August 2018* Deputy Director: Project Manager: Operation Phakisa Some successes include: • Drafting the first draft of the ICT Strategy for the Basic Education Sector • Identifying all 150 or so ICT initiatives in DBE, tracking their costs and progress as far as possible and in so doing encouraged reduced siloing of effort • Successfully reduced OP budget from about 120 bn to 22 bn with minimal deployment impact • Ensuring reporting of Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) through updated reporting mechanisms • Supporting specific units, e.g. Examinations, Inclusive Education, in designing or supporting design of initiatives • Engaging the special needs sector and ensuring collaboration between stakeholders such as NGOs, DBE, and other departments like DOC, ICASA, DSD, DTPS, etc. to formulate standard hardware requirements • Activated and managed a project to digitise the DBE's business processes which enabled work during Covid-19. • Identified a number of alternative connectivity technologies. In particular, one success is a rural connectivity project which is currently being deployed. • Identifying and drafting school ICT asset policy • Meeting with stakeholders from corporate and NGO sectors and negotiating projects to support DBE • General Project Management and delivery of updated/ revised Project Management templates • Managing the documentation and reporting of Operation Phakisa including keeping it up to date • Supporting the Office of the Director-General: Business Processes Acting as secretariat for a number of committees e.g. interdepartmental committee to manage stakeholders from different government departments on the matter of Operation Phakisa • Producing reports for Presidency/DPME and internal committees • Assisting with Deputy Ministers' inspections of ICTs • Business Process redesign and mapping aligned with DPSA OMF framework, particularly completing work around SS, SC, SOPs, SDPs, etc. • Verifying that DBE's APPs and deliverables were aligned with ANC congress resolutions.

University of the Witwatersrand	*Q1, 2016* • Lecturing (Molecular cell biology postgraduates on scientific method)
National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT)	*Q2, 2015-Q1, 2016* Technologist on Rural ICTs in Education project, produced large report of recommendations for rural deployment context. Report was presented to the Presidential Operation Phakisa lab in 2015.
University of the Witwatersrand	*Q1, 2015* • Lecturing (philosophy undergraduates)
Consulting	*2010-2013* Consultant. Some achievements include: • IT Solutions for academic member associations. • Editing science textbooks and others. • Managing a series of large academic conferences using my company's software
Freelance, Research, and Writing	*2008-2009* PhD student, Edinburgh, UK
University of the Witwatersrand	*1995-2008* System administrator (13 years). Some achievements include: • Supported 3000 users in five departments using ten servers • University teaching: lectured on operating systems (NBN, bioinformatics, CS Hons). • Extended systems using my own programming. • Designed an automated backup system for Windows, pre-dating 'cloud' by a few years. • Some academic publications, starting in 2007.
Johannesburg College of Education (Now Wits University Education campus)	*1991-1994* Various roles Some achievements include: • Learnt desktop publishing and design work • Teaching science, mathematics and biology • Community service in rural KwaZulu-Natal (1993), rebuilding a primary school (Nompondo Primary, Hlabiso District). It is this experience which led me to realise that my calling was in social upliftment particularly in education sector.

Academic Career

Academic Reviewer:	- South African Computer Journal; - South African Journal of Philosophy; - Cambridge Religion; - IUPsyS Proceedings of ICP2012; and - DBE Journal "Education Matters" (2018). - Reviewed many conference papers. See publons.com.

Relevant Publications

Computer books	*The Smallest Sendmail Book,* ISBN 978-1-4092-1390-1; *Linux and Friends*. ISBN 978-1-4092-5220-7; *Locking Down Linux — An Introduction to Linux Security*. ISBN 978-1-4457-0277-3. - I'm presently merging these into one book. *Web Programming — An Introduction.* ISBN 978-1-326-50249-2. Currently in its 14th Edition. - I've written several other books, mostly dealing with philosophy, ancient history, ethics, or computers.
Academic papers	*Network Booting versus hard disks: Costs and Implications* (Conference on IT in Tertiary Education, UCT, Cape Town, ZA, in 2004). *Challenges in introducing ICTs in teaching and learning in South Africa* (Basic Education Matters: 2018:1. Department of Basic Education). *Moral risks and government policy in South Africa in the context of 4IR.* (South African Journal of Philosophy, 2021). Raises a number of issues to do with threats from 4IR. - Several other papers, mostly dealing with application of Bayesian Statistics in philosophy, or philosophy of neuroscience.

Professional Associations

Association	Membership number if applicable
South African Council of Educators (SACE)	12479018
Philosophical Society of Southern Africa	N/A
Secular Society of SA	Licensed Marriage officer CU/229

Languages

Language	Fluency
English	Exceptional.
Afrikaans	Moderate.
Russian, French, German	Rudimentary.
isiZulu, SeSotho	Starting to learn these at present.

References

This is a selection of references, more are available on request.

Contact person	Years	Role
Prof Brett Bowman, brett.bowman@wits.ac.za	2010-2012	Deputy Dean Humanities: Wits University. Supervised me on ICP2012.
Prof Saths Cooper scooper@kenako.org	2010-2012, 2021	Supervisor for ICP2012. Recently ran an online AGM for IUPsyS (2021).
Prof Antonio Pooe antonio.pooe@gmail.com	2020-2021	Collaborated with on SurveyFiesta solution, met me in my CIO role (2018-2021).
Dr Patricia Watson, watson.p@dbe.gov.za	2013-2015	Chief Director of School safety and social responsibility; Director from 2013-2015 at DBE.
Dr Thabo Mabogoane, thabom@dpme.gov.za	2016-2018	Deputy Director-General, Presidency, to whom I reported on Operation Phakisa (2016-2018)
Ms Matshepo Seedat Matshepo@presidency.gov.za	2016-2018	Director in Deputy Presidency, to whom I reported on Operation Phakisa (2016-2018)
Mr Enver Surty enversurty@gmail.com	2016-2018	Deputy Minister at DBE, and former Minister of Justice. Operation Phakisa (2016-2018).
Mr Peter Pedlar, peterpedlar@mweb.co.za	2019	Acting Secretary, State Capture Commission / DOJ&CD (2019)
Prof I Mosala itumelengm@commissionsc.org.za	2021	Acting Secretary, State Capture Commission / DOJ&CD (2020-)