

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Details

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Profile & Goal

I am an experienced engineer with a broad range of technical knowledge. I have worked with some great clients while contracting on projects including an interactive television project that went on to win a BAFTA and R&D in mobile technology (the precursor to the Liberty identity project). Later I had an even greater exposure to world-class websites and their technologies working with an incredible range of blue chip companies while at Akamai.

I have a broad range of technical skills with a special interest in Perl, other open source technologies and various RDBMS. I am also a Perl CPAN author and have spoken at most of the YAPC::Europe conferences. I have also been awarded the White Camel award for service to the Perl community and am the current leader of the London Perl Mongers (the worlds largest Perl usergroup). However, despite my passion for Perl I firmly believe in choosing the right technologies and architecture for the business problem.

I also have good general/business experience having worked in a pre-sale solutions architect / technical support role at CTO/CIO level on £1M+ contracts, account management work on a £3M+ per year customer and in senior management looking after a wide range of functions. I have also studied law. After being involved with management for a number of years at the end of 2007 I made the decision to move back into a more technical role.

I am interested in contracting opportunities or a permanent position in a world leading organization.

Work Experience

Contract:
(February 2008 – October 2008)

Tiscali UK
Perl Developer

(Perl, MySQL, Oracle, CVS, Subversion(SVN), Telecom/ISP, LLU, MPF, XML, Web Services)

At Tiscali, I got back to technology and development via the deep end. Diving into a complex code base I initially made an impact solving live issues and turning around a project which had already launched and was under threat of shutdown.

I worked to help support the permanent members of staff and helped with their transition to subversion, coding standards and general mentoring of newly hired staff.

As time went on I was asked to do more design and architecture work, where I had the privilege to work with excellent business analysts who delivered ideas that I would make happen in our code base.

I am most proud of how quickly I became the domain expert in several of their codebases and products.

Permanent:
(July 2007 – October 2007)

**Venda
Development Manager**

(Perl, RT, MySQL CVS, Line Management, Coaching/Mentoring, Strategy, Statistics)

Originally I was brought in to head a department of systems people and developers, early on I identified that a person with no experience of their platform could not do such a role in the short term. I raised this and was asked to put forward a set of proposals that were accepted to restructure their support organization.

After this I helped to mentor/support the new second line support manager while at the same time developing a number of tools in Perl to visualize their operational and support functions (via RT) and also improve the management of their legacy codebase – e.g. I created a version control script that could determine via B::Deparse whether a change to Perl code was trivial or worthy of review.

Permanent:
(October 2004 – June 2007)

**Fotango
Chief Scientist**

(Perl, PostgreSQL, Line Management, Strategy, Account Management, Negotiation, Web 2.0, Utility Computing, Billing)

As a member of Fotango's senior management team I was responsible for the QA, Customer Support and Project Management functions and ad-hoc commercial and technical projects. I maintained good working relations with their primary customer, Canon, in sometimes challenging circumstances.

An example of the sort of ad-hoc project I mentioned would be the shutdown of the original photosite. I managed this entire process. I handled all aspects from finding a buyer for our userbase, the legal and commercial negotiations, the technical elements in the transfer and even ensuring the PR and customer support aspects left us with no negative publicity. The project was completed on time with even a small profit remaining after all costs had been accounted for as opposed to the original prediction of £50,000+ shutdown costs.

I also ensured I kept in touch with technology and developed personally projects such as their backup system for a multi-terabyte application with unique challenges in Perl, that later saved the companies primary application and their load testing system that gave true measures of concurrency with annotations, again in Perl.

During my time I have had 0 turnover of staff, consistently remained on budget (~£0.25M) and accepted and managed increasing responsibilities thanks to a great team of motivated people working for me.

Permanent:
(April 2003 – October 2004)

Akamai
Senior Solutions Architect

(Edge Services, Java, .Net, Caching, Web Architectures, Presales, SOAP, WSDL, XML, Perl, Distributed Systems, Project Management)

Working as an integration consultant and later as a senior solutions architect I integrated and managed several of the UK and Scandinavia's high profile websites/web applications. Working in this very customer facing role I took customers high level business problems and developed robust solutions for them using the Akamai technology platform. Along with this I presented in CEO/CIO/CTO level presale meetings to some of the largest technology and web companies in the Northern European area and was arguably the most successful professional services member in Europe in terms of revenues won. I also ran training courses internally on various new technologies for members of the technical services team.

Contract:
(December 2002- March 2003)

BBC – Radio and Music Interactive
Senior Architect

(Perl, Oracle, mod_perl, CVS, XML, mentoring)

Working on the OneMusic site in order to address performance issues, I managed to speed up the response time by approximately 600% by refactoring after creating a test suite for the system. I also got involved in general architecture design work for the Radio and Music Interactive team along with mentoring and training the more junior members of the team.

Freelance:
(July 2002 – October 2002)

The College of Optometrists
Consulting Architect

(Perl, Postgres, CVS, mod_perl, ASP, mod_perl)

I assisted with the conversion of Monoptica.com from ASP/Access to mod_perl/Postgres in order to host it on their own servers and I also advised and helped to fix security holes in the site that became apparent during the conversion.

Freelance:
(October 2002)

EuroRSCG Wnek Gosper
Training Consultant

(Training, Perl, Refactoring)

I gave training courses to the internal development team and helped them with pair programming exercises. The main topics covered were Perl testing, refactoring and also design techniques for Perl applications.

Contract:
(June 2002 - July 2002)

Representing Accenture at O2
Senior Architect

(Perl, Oracle, CVS, SOAP, XML-RPC, WSDL, SMS)

Working in a very visible customer facing role, I developed a general architecture for handling SOAP, XML-RPC and HTTP requests for O2's SMS B2B offering SMSOA – SMS Open Architecture. I also managed version control and presented them with some new approaches for developing software and tests that allowed greater interaction with the system analysts.

Freelance:
(February 2001 - March 2002)

The College of Optometrists
Analyst Consultant

(Systems Analysis, Project Management, Perl, Postgres, SOAP, mod_perl)

I carried out the initial requirements gathering and analysis for the College of Optometrists' membership and administrative support systems working with all levels of staff on the College. I specified the technical design of the system and proved various concepts with early prototypes.

Contract:
(August 2001 – October 2001)

Representing Special Moves for Pfizer.
Senior Perl Programmer
(Perl, CVS, Oracle)

Special Moves subcontracted the backend programming, design and architecture for an Intranet based document management system. Despite numerous requirement changes, we met every milestone agreed by the parties involved.

Contract:
(January 2001 to June 2001)

Symbian
Technical Architect for R&D
(Java, WAP, SMS, Systems Analysis, Security)

Working with Symbian's research and development department I was responsible for designing architecture for next generation wireless communication and information services.

Contract:
(Sept. 2000 to January 2001)

Representing Interwoven at Tesco.com
Interwoven Teamsite Senior Technical Consultant
(Perl, Interwoven Teamsite, NT Administration)

Tesco.com was having difficulties with the Interwoven Teamsite product; this was due to the fact that their use of the software was very advanced due to the number and the variety of their target content platforms. Interwoven hired me to represent them as a Teamsite Technical Consultant on site, to help Tesco.com realize the potential of the product and ensure smooth running of the product at Tesco.com. I managed to turn the customer from a problematic one to one of the best reference sites for Interwoven in Europe.

Contract:
(March 2000 to Sept. 2000)

eBookers.com
Technical Architect / Head of Core Development
(Perl, RCS, CVS, Project Management, C, Sybase, Java, EJB, Interwoven TeamSite)

Initially I was involved at analysing the systems in place at eBookers.com and appraising proposed Enterprise Java Beans based solutions from external companies. When this project was cancelled, I wrote an industry strength application server for eBookers.com in Perl, implementing features such as transaction rollback and load balancing. I was also involved in running training courses for the organisation and establishing proper project management within the software team.

Consulting:

BBC
Content Management Consultant / Tech. Architect
(Technical Architecture, Project Management, Training, Code Reviewing, XML)

After the success of the previous years Wimbledon broadcast, I was brought back to devise the new and improved version of the software. I was also involved in giving talks about content management and Perl to the department. I am very pleased to say that the programming that this project supported won a BAFTA for "Best extension of linear media".

Contract:
(October 1999 to March 2000)

**Level 3
Senior Perl Programmer**

(Perl, Clear Case, UNIX Administration, Oracle, MySQL)

A “startup” telecommunications company Level 3 aimed to provide services in the entire arena of telecommunications. Therefore they required sophisticated software that was simply unavailable anywhere in the world and the integration of other software subsystems. I was involved in the development of a wide range of reporting, administration and fault analysis software applications, with several programs being of critical importance to the organisation.

Contract:
(May 1999 to August 1999)

**BBC Interactive
Senior Perl Programmer / Digital TV Consultant**

(Perl, OS/2 Administration, UNIX (Linux) Administration, NT Administration, Training, Digital Television Technology, RCS)

Advising the BBC on aspects of MHEG-5 development for specific projects and for their Digital Text service as a whole. I also was involved with writing a system for handling outside data source handling to air. Which was demonstrated by the development of a system that can take full statistical information from IBM’s bespoke protocol used by the Wimbledon Scoring system and process it for broadcasting to various distribution mediums, including the first ever outside digital broadcast this year at Wimbledon ‘99. I was also involved in running training courses for the organisation.

Contract:
(February 1999 to May 1999)

**FT.com
Senior Perl / Database Developer**

(Perl, Java, Code Reviews, CVS Administration, Testing Systems, Technical Architecture)

I developed feed cleaning and processing applications for the financial information data that feeds the main web site. Along with this I was involved with overall performance issues of their server side Java, C and Perl networking code along with the configuration of their Apache webserver. During my time at FT.com I worked to extremely tight deadlines.

Contract:
(January 1999 to Feb. 1999)

**MediaSurface
Senior Analyst / Programmer**

(Perl, Mediasurface, Oracle, RCS, Content Management)

I wrote server side Perl for their main product, a content management system used by several major companies to manage the publication process to the World Wide Web and other media. The greatest challenge due to the tight schedules was gaining an understanding of the entire product infrastructure in a very short space of time.

Contract:
(July 1998 to January 1999)

PA News
Senior Analyst / Programmer
(*Perl, Java, CORBA, Oracle, Informix*)

I worked as a senior analyst / programmer at the Press Association, mainly involved with the development of a new content management and publication system for Digital Television's equivalent of Teletext. Although I was brought into other projects as an Internal consultant due to my breadth of knowledge in Information Technology. The main project involved advanced Perl and Java programming. I took sole responsibility for the development of a bespoke RPC system supporting Perl, Java and C. I also developed a Java CORBA client to connect to a CORBA Server from IBM which had (due to no fault of IBM's) been designed without 3rd party connections in mind. I also designed several database implementations for the Informix platform while at PA and advised others on Perl, Java and C programming.

Freelance:

Compusolve
Analyst / Programmer
(*Python, UNIX Administration*)

I developed an on-line domain registration system in Python handling credit card validation, PGP domain name requests and automatic administration of the mail, web and domain name server.

Permanent:
(December 1997 to June 1998)

Radius Retail Ltd.
Analyst / Programmer
(*Perl, Java, C, Oracle, Microsoft SQL Server, Ingres, SCCS*)

I developed C and Perl software for their retail software products, developing and testing code against a wide range of platforms.

Permanent:
(July 1995 to December 1997)

Crown Office
Systems Analyst / NT and AIX System Administrator
(*NT Administration, AIX Administration, Microsoft SQL Server, PRINCE2 Project Management, Team Management*)

I managed several of their major systems and designed and implemented an MIS Intranet Application.

Consulting:

Web 13 / Net Presence
UNIX System Administrator
(*Linux Administration, C*)

Setting up the second Internet Café in the UK and a low bandwidth ISP.

Education

The Open University
Expected Degree

2006 to 2012 (expected)
L.L.B. (Law)

The University of Edinburgh
Degree
Modules

October 1992 to June 1996
B.Sc. (Hons) - Computer Science
Computer Design, Computer Architecture, Software Design, Programming Methodology, Computer Communications, Parallel Software, Parallel Hardware, Language Semantics.

Outside Subjects

Pure Mathematics, Statistics, Biology, Electronics, Philosophy, Artificial Intelligence.

Ballymena Academy
'A' Levels

September 1985 to June 1992
Mathematics (A), Further Mathematics (B), Computing (B), Physics (C).