

# Alan Davies

+1 203 856 1748

[alan@alandavies.org](mailto:alan@alandavies.org)

<http://www.alandavies.org/blog>

## Summary

I'm an experienced software engineer who also possesses excellent leadership and interpersonal skills. Although I didn't start out professionally as an engineer I've essentially been one ever since I was a kid. It just took me a while to finally do it professionally. I'm a geek at heart and best in a tactical capacity where I can be hands-on while also leading and mentoring a small team. I'm a designer, builder, problem-solver, teacher, mentor, consultant and evangelist. I'm an incurably curious perfectionist who's just as much at home in a client presentation as designing a new system or optimizing some code.

## Work Experience

### FactSet Research Systems Inc.

|  |  |                  |
|--|--|------------------|
| 1/2015 – 4/2019:   | Vice President, Principal Software Engineer, Database Infrastructure         | Norwalk, CT, USA |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Technical lead for all internal RDBMS infrastructure and related services</li><li>Lead a six-month research working group to vet commercial/open-source RDBMS technologies and select a standard for future internal use. Gained an in depth understanding of DB2, Oracle, PostgreSQL, SQL Server and MySQL/MariaDB</li><li>Develop/support all internal RDBMS access/management APIs</li><li>Wrote RDBMS training curricula. Deliver regular internal training programs and info sessions.</li><li>Provide data architecture consulting services to all internal application teams</li><li>Develop/manage/support a secure, elastic RDBMS proxy and multi-tenancy infrastructure</li><li>Regularly engage with external database technology vendors to vet and recommend internal technical direction</li><li>Partnered with other internal technologists to develop FactSet's road map to move our application stack from our own data centres to public cloud</li><li>Participated in several executive briefing/planning sessions at AWS and Microsoft</li></ul> |  |                  |
| 3/2012 – 1/2015:   | Vice President, Principal Software Engineer, Content Integration Engineering | Norwalk, CT, USA |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Left management and lead an R&amp;D project to design/build a new high-performance data-store/service for a specific dataset</li><li>Researched scale-out columnar database technologies: Greenplum, Vertica, Hadoop, SAP Hanna, etc.</li><li>Ultimately went with a custom solution with an in-memory data service backed by a SQL database. Designed, prototyped and led a team to build it. Features: Point-in-time data views, parallelized query execution, optimized data loads.</li><li>Ported complex legacy C++ code (from acquisition) to C#. Lots of unit tests to verify logic.</li><li>Adapted code from this project to create a generic versioned data caching layer for C#</li><li>Authored a framework for the standardized management of SQL Server schema changes</li><li>Engaged in several internal data architecture consulting projects for key constituencies across FactSet</li></ul>   |  |                  |
| 12/2008 – 3/2012:  | Vice President, Associate Director, Content Integration Engineering          | Norwalk, CT, USA |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>As part of a reorganization I shifted focus to lead content integration for various new high profile areas: reported company chart of accounts, analyst estimated company data, M&amp;A, VC, ownership and private equity</li><li>Dealt with attrition/morale issues after a significant reorganization. Identified new leaders and rebuilt teams.</li><li>Built new working relationships with FactSet's growing inhouse content collection and collection engineering groups</li><li>Led all engineering work related to the technology integration of a key acquisition</li><li>Actively involved in the design of data feed methodologies for new FactSet data sets</li><li>Established an initial offshore team in Manila. Developed a recruiting/training strategy with HR. Visited several times.</li><li>Led a task force to focus on delivering major improvements in query performance for a high profile dataset. Lots of politics.</li></ul>   |  |                  |
| 9/2004 – 12/2008:  | Vice President, Associate Director, Product Engineering                      | Norwalk, CT, USA |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Moved to the US to lead International Database Engineering (Europe, Asia-Pac and a core of US activity too)</li><li>Managed continued growth. Ultimately led a team of 30 across three regions including sub-managers.</li><li>Drove several key infrastructure and product initiatives</li><li>Continued to incrementally drive the Internationalization (I18N) agenda</li></ul>  |  |                  |
| 9/2001 – 9/2004:   | Head of Asia Pacific Engineering   | Tokyo, Japan     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>I was asked to relocate to Tokyo and tasked with repeating the success of hiring database engineers in London</li></ul>  |  |                  |

|                   |   |                    |
|-------------------|---|--------------------|
|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hired and trained a local Tokyo engineering team while also continuing to remotely manage London Database Engineering</li> <li>Re-architected the Asia-Pac databases and feed handlers to achieve significant improvements in reliability and performance</li> <li>Added several new data feed systems</li> <li>Managed vendor relations with various Asia-Pac data suppliers (stock exchanges, financial publishing companies)</li> <li>Initiated the effort to internationalize FactSet's codebase and ultimately deliver localized product</li> <li>Established the concept of an office-hours based geographically rotating "Engineer on Duty" to monitor key systems</li> </ul> |                    |
| 12/1999 – 9/2001: | Software Engineer, London   | London, UK         |
|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shifted over to Software Engineering to start to build the first non-US engineering team</li> <li>Hired and trained the first tier of London database engineers</li> <li>Personally developed several data feed systems. Built the first generation of generic data integration tools.</li> </ul>  |                    |
| 2/1999 – 12/1999: | European Product Development, London  | London, UK         |
|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moved back to London to become the first representative of Product Development in Europe</li> <li>Worked extensively with several external data suppliers in order to host their data on the FactSet platform</li> </ul>   |                    |
| 4/1996 – 2/1999:  | Product Development, Greenwich  | Greenwich, CT, USA |
|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requested a move to the US in order to join the nascent Product Development department</li> <li>Provided tier-2 support to clients. Worked with sales on custom client projects involving the FactSet API.</li> <li>Took many engineering classes at NYU. Taught myself C++ and actively started contributing code to the FactSet system.</li> <li>Product lead for the FactSet-Excel Link. Managed/developed several significant enhancements to Excel functionality.</li> </ul>  |                    |
| 4/1994 – 3/1996:  | Client Services/ Sales Engineering  | London, UK         |
|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employee #3 in FactSet's London office</li> <li>Worked as part of the core team trying to establish FactSet's business in Europe</li> <li>Worked extensively with prospects and clients in London, Zurich, Geneva &amp; Paris</li> </ul>   |                    |

## Procter & Gamble Co.

|                  |                   |            |
|------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 9/1992 – 1/1994: | Account Executive | London, UK |
|------------------|-------------------|------------|

## Technical Skills/Experience

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Operating Systems | Windows, OpenVMS, Linux (RedHat, Ubuntu)  |
| Database Systems  | SQL Server, PostgreSQL, MySQL/MariaDB, Oracle, Vertica, graph databases   |
| Primary Languages | C#, C++, SQL, Perl; PowerShell, Bash  |
| Other             | On-prem vs. cloud technologies (AWS/Azure), data structures and algorithms, data modelling, data warehousing, data scaling/sharding, test driven development, CI/CD, build systems, threading, async programming, low latency services, object-oriented design, debugging |

## Other Skills/Experience

|  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical writing (documentation, training materials); presenting/training (have spoken at several conferences); blogging</li> <li>Software project management; personnel management; team building</li> <li>Sales and account management; consulting; technology evangelism</li> <li>Broad professional and social interests; diverse cultural experience; avid student of technology and history</li> </ul> |
|--|

## Education

|                  |  |            |
|------------------|--|------------|
| 9/1989 – 6/1992: | St. John's College, Oxford University – B. A. Honours, Applied Mathematics | Oxford, UK |
|------------------|--|------------|

## Interests

|  |
|--|
| Playing guitar (blues, rock); repairing/hacking guitars/amps; music technology; scouting (assistant scout master for local troop); Aikido; mathematics; puzzles; electronics; blogging |
|--|