

Thomas Higson's Curriculum Vitae

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About me

I am a **PMI certified** agile product owner with a background in software engineering and software management. I have also acted as an agile coach for large (>£300M) projects.

I have approximately 5 years' experience in product owner and similar roles and 12 years' software development experience overall. My experience covers a wide range of projects:

- Safety and mission critical systems for automotive and defence projects
- Industry disrupting new concepts and future systems
- From green-field, experimental prototypes to on-site support of legacy systems

Although no longer a developer, I like to keep my knowledge relevant by building in my spare time:

- Small cloud native websites such as [this one to host my CV](#)
- Raspberry Pi projects, such as home automation systems and [Pi Holes](#)
- Selenium scripts to automate admin tasks

Fields of expertise

- Product management
- Stakeholder management
- Mentoring and training
- Scrum agile software development
- DevOps
- Cloud architecture
- Web apps and services
- Modularity and reuse across product lines
- Automotive engineering
- Safety engineering

Technology proficiencies

- JIRA
- Amazon Web Services
- Adobe Experience Manager
- ForgeRock
- Artifactory
- Azure
- REST & OData
- Progressive Web Apps
- Git
- Rational Rhapsody
- Angular
- JavaScript / TypeScript
- IQ-RM Pro
- FaultTree +
- Rational DOORS
- Java
- C#
- SQL
- Windows Server
- Oracle Database

Experience



Product Owner

Dyson since Sep 2019 (5 months)

For this short term contract I helped Dyson prepare for and operate over the 2019 peak trading period by becoming the product owner for their UK, Canada and USA e-commerce platform.

I worked with a wide range of stakeholders to:

- Set the platform themes to give clear direction to developers
- Modify the processes to be more agile
 - Introduced earlier product owner assessments, allowing issues to be found earlier
 - Worked collaboratively with the team to create a new definition of done
 - Empowered developers by connecting them directly to stakeholders

During my time as product owner, the team achieved:

- Zero downtime during the peak trading window for the first time in the site's history
- Recognition from Which in their 2019 website rankings as the #6 electronics sales site, beating notable competition including Apple and Amazon



Vertex Engineering Lead

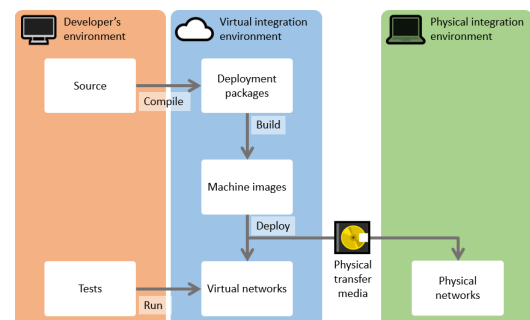
General Dynamics Sep 2017 – Sep 2019 (2 years)

As engineering lead for General Dynamic's Vertex research and development department, I worked closely with internal and external stakeholders to ensure our new product innovations were in line with upcoming, ever-changing defence needs.

Product Owner: Switch

I introduced DevOps practices to Vertex projects by bringing external DevOps consultants into the company. Through this, Vertex and other internal projects have developed a strong DevOps culture and greatly increased both release tempo and feature cycle time.

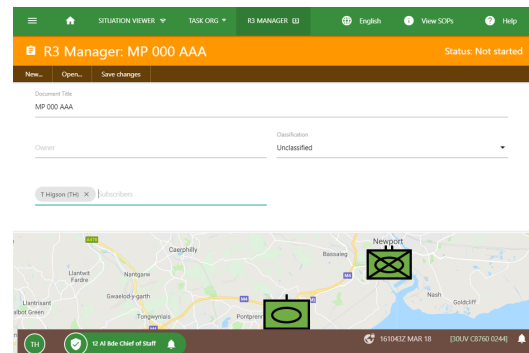
My project, **Software integration and testing collaboration home, or Switch**, opened similar DevOps pipelines to external developers, allowing rapid integration of apps into the **MORPHEUS EvO network architecture**. The Switch concept is highly disruptive for the UK Defence industry, providing app developers



unprecedented levels of network integration in far shorter timescales than previously possible.

Product Owner: APOC

I took **Application Platform for Orchestration and Collaboration**, or **APOC**, from a spark of an idea to a proof of concept system. Unlike other app platforms, APOC provides MORPHEUS network architecture interfaces for both bespoke and commercial apps to separate business logic and data management from the apps.



Personal Development

I am proud to be a **PMI Agile Certified Practitioner**

My other certifications include:

- Certified training instructor
- Mental health first aid certified
- Security cleared to UK level 2 (Secret) since November 2007

I enjoy presenting at technology conferences when I have the opportunity. Topics I have presented so far include:

- Specialising the Systems Modelling Language for safety analysis
- Analysing the safety of intended functions
- Apps in defence
- Blockchain in defence

I am passionate about pursuing STEM activities such as

- Providing talks and demonstrations at local schools
- (previously) Helping organise MBDA's annual Robot Rumble event



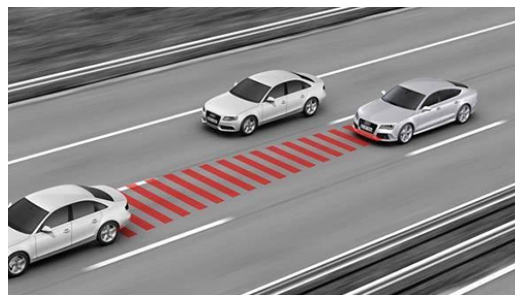
Engineering Manager

ZF TRW Sep 2016 – Sep 2017 (1 year)

System safety lead for radar customer projects

I was responsible for assessing the safety of advanced driver assistance systems. A demonstration of some of the systems I contributed to can be seen in [this video](#). My contributions included:

- Delivered safety cases for autonomy level 1 (hands on) systems
 - Led an activity to adapt a passenger vehicle safety case for trucks
 - Analysed the safety impact of different sensor configurations
 - Worked alongside project managers to plan system and safety milestones
 - Acted as the primary point of contact between prototype and project development teams
- Assisted in developing concepts for autonomy level 2 (hands off) systems



Principal Engineer

MBDA Systems Jun 2009 – Sep 2016 (7 years, 3 months)

System architect for Future Cruise & Anti-Ship System

I took overall responsibility for the system architecture of a highly disruptive future system to make **a concept vision** a reality. My contributions included:

- Created a trade model to identify, assess and resolve the project's major decision points
 - Focused on integration onto multiple existing infrastructures, interoperability, network architecture and the implications of new technologies
 - Captured and traded the customer's needs through a set of international workshops
- Scoped, prioritised and planned activities for teams



Flight path management domain lead for Fire Shadow

I owned the flight path management aspects of an **urgent operational request for a novel loitering munition**. This system demanded fast-paced development in a constantly changing field. My contributions included:

- Worked with software suppliers to clarify system boundaries, responsibilities and priorities
- Managed work packages for several systems engineers and test engineers For my work, I received a Contribution to the Business award at the MBDA 2011 National Awards

