

ANDREW EMERSON

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DEV: • github.com/aoemerson • stackoverflow.com/story/aoemerson

Profile

I am a passionate and committed product-focused engineer who strives to create great software and apps which delight their users. I thrive in positions where it is important not only to write excellent code but to keep the product and its users in mind throughout. I love learning new technologies, and processes and I have a track-record of doing so within tight timelines.

Having previously worked on the management side of software development as an IT Consultant at Accenture, I have established myself as an excellent communicator in technical and business environments as well as gaining valuable experience of what it takes to get software projects over the line.

I am seeking engineering positions in Brighton or London in which I will bring my unique blend of skills to bear on the creation of excellent products.

Skills Range

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|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| • Android (Java) | • JAX-RS Web Services | • Gradle |
| • JSON | • Git SCM | • Jenkins CI |
| • Crashlytics | • Amazon EC2 / RDS | • MySQL |
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Work History

Released *Just Show Me It* for Android

December 2014 – Present

Identified an opportunity to improve the way in which people share tweets and websites on social media and private messages through automatic creation of screenshots.

Used my prior Java development experience to independently build the skills and the technology required to release an Android product and its supporting web service. Delivered all phases of software delivery lifecycle: conceived, designed, implemented, product-tested, beta-tested and released the app. The app is on the Google Play Store at [goo.gl/swcid5](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.justshowmeit).

Key achievements:

- Demonstrated the self-motivation and ability to take on the new skills required release an Android app with integrated web services. As a result, progressed from beginner to technical competence in the above-listed technologies and languages used in the Just Show Me It app
- Applied keen analytical skills and determination in tracking down a performance issue with *Just Show Me It*. The app was not performing adequately in generating output images and the source of the delay was not immediately obvious. To diagnose the issue, I used method profiling to effectively identify the bottleneck. As a result, the duration of image generation was reduced by around 80%.
- I was not satisfied with the standard Android loading dialog for *Just Show Me It* so set about experimenting with a number of solutions, resulting in a custom-built loading screen, making use of Android's animation framework.
- Explored the desire to find out how things work under the hood whilst overcoming a limitation in the twitter SDK for Android. The SDK did not call back to the application once it had loaded and displayed a tweet, causing errors in the generation of tweet preview images. By inspecting the SDK source code, successfully identified the appropriate method in which to inject a custom load completion call back.

Career Break: Arranging relocation from UK to Vietnam (self and partner)

May 2014 – November 2014

Handled the logistics and administration of relocating from the UK to Vietnam for partner's overseas job posting as well as taking some well-deserved time out to explore the fascinating sights, sounds and tastes of a vibrant new country.

Technology Consultant – Accenture UK

October 2007 – April 2014

Technology Consultant primarily focused on large enterprise integration projects for a number of Accenture's high value clients in the Consumer Goods, Pharmaceutical and Energy industries. The role required a well-rounded blend of managing client relationships, reliable project delivery, coordinating the work of remote delivery teams, risk management and effectively communicating requirements and specifications along the business-technical spectrum.

Key achievements:

- Excelled at technical and non-technical risk management in roles ranging from Deployment Analyst to Project Manager. For example, during the build phase as Deployment Analyst during a large SAP integration programme, highlighted a risk in the preparation of deployment artefacts which could cause a large number of regression errors to a live system. Early

escalation and effective communication of the risk prevented potential gridlock during an aggressive deployment schedule.

- Became an expert at translating between the worlds of business and technology at all levels. Communicated technical issues and constraints to client business leaders in an easy-to-understand manner. Took real-world requirements from clients and ensured they were manifested as feasible technical solutions for developers.
- Drew on excellent client management skills and clear communication to develop an excellent working relationship with a key client at a large FMCG company. The pace of the project's technical change was causing conflict between the company's IT organisation and the Accenture project team. As interface Deployment Lead, I earned the trust of key client IT team members, resulting in successful deployment of over 1000 middleware interfaces whilst improving client trust and the day-to-day working relationship.
- Benefited from experience in working with remote teams to highlight and mitigate a risk with an underperforming third-party development team. The team, chosen by the client, was used for development of a key component of the project in conjunction with Accenture. My experience working with remote teams allowed for early identification of a lack of expertise in this team which would have caused poor software quality or a delay in the project timelines. Timely escalation and mitigation by requesting in-house expertise to assist the team ensured that the project was not adversely impacted.
- As Test Lead of an enterprise integration project, designed and ensured the test and development teams rigorously adhered to the defect management procedure, ensuring effective triage and quick turnaround of defects.
- Developed a thorough understanding of the trade-off between tactical and strategic engineering and the risks introduced by technical debt. For example, at one FMCG client, a tactical integration architecture was chosen in one area which increased longer-term support costs but reduced short-term project timelines. Based on the long-term benefits outlined in my analysis of the client's IT landscape, the client agreed to hire Accenture to migrate their solution to the strategic option, winning Accenture around a 500m EUR sale.
- At a large pharmaceuticals company, client and third party disagreement over the optimal solution to a data architecture design issue threatened to delay the project. I planned and coordinated sessions to resolve the complex disagreement and to drive out a solution. Using my approachable and friendly manner, I brought people together to work towards a resolution, ensuring the disagreeing parties were properly engaged and informed. This resulted in a mutually accepted solution and the avoidance of project delay.

Software Engineering Intern – Agilent Technologies

June 2005 – June 2006

Software Engineering role responsible for developing production line test executive software in C# .NET at a high tech test and measurement electronics company. Contributed to all stages of the software development lifecycle over several releases and participated in quality control procedures such as code reviews.

Key achievements:

- Contributed to a significant refactoring of the application to an MVC model in advance of a new major release.
- Lead an effort to improve efficiency and reduce risk of source code management (SCM) across remote teams (UK, US and Malaysia). Highlighted and escalated lack of good SCM procedures and managed initiative to document new procedures, resulting in improved collaboration of geographically-spread engineering team.
- Successfully completed knowledge and technical transfer of software project from UK to Malaysia engineering team and assisted the other developers with any technical questions they had during the transition.

Education

The University of Edinburgh: BSc. (Hons.) Computer Science – 2:1

October 2002 – July 2007

- Focused on the theoretical fundamentals of Computer Science including algorithms, relational databases, computer architectures, and networking. Most practical exercises used Java programming to demonstrate understanding of the curriculum.
- Awarded a First class score for final year project which used Java programming to implement, simulate, analyse and report the results of the computational performance of a peer-to-peer network protocol and its associated topology.
- Completed Internship as Software Engineer at Agilent Technologies – see Work History section.

Interests and hobbies

- I enjoy getting involved in any kind of physical pursuit including running, hiking, skiing and swimming.
- As an enthusiast photographer, I love getting lost in the creative process and taking pride in the results.
- An eclectic taste in music; a regular at gigs throughout the year and at a handful of festivals during the summer.

References

- Available on request.