

Benjamin Van Vliet

Technology Product Portfolio Manager

Currently leading BHP's Innovation Centre, which is the flagship technology proving ground where technology and operational mining innovation is developed prior to global scaling. My role is to develop BHP's technology design and delivery capability through building, leading and integrating 8 technology product teams which mirror the operational value chain. This role covers the whole product development lifecycle including designing the portfolio, operating model and delivery to our customers in the operations. A key achievement has been in championing the concept of customer, and standing up teams to unlock value through customer-facing software services, platforms and supporting hardware that meaningfully impact the lives of operators, supervisors and superintendents at BHP operations.

I joined the Technology Strategy and Innovation function three years ago to establish a more progressive global Enterprise Architecture capability that drives good technical decision making to the core of software, service and system delivery. Previously I had roles as a technology project manager and solution architect, including in designing and developing a distributed architecture designing including for public cloud based industrial plant process management.

Deep mining and oil and gas domain expertise across many different commodity types, having previously held operational, leadership and consulting roles touching many parts of the resources value chain from long-term planning, maintenance, and operations through to outbound logistics. I began my career as an information systems consultant, starting in the plant maintenance domain before developing and leading work in custom software development, system integration, process improvement, and operating model definition projects.

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Highlights of Expertise

- **Technology portfolio leadership, embedding:** scaled delivery practices across product portfolios, building product teams, evolutionary architecture, lean approaches to product design, innovation in high-friction enterprises, establishing product ownership as a discipline.
- **Product leadership, driving technology change through:** domain driven design, experimental approaches to product development, continuous delivery practices, user experience and experience-based design (UX/XD).
- **Technical leadership, leading:** Legacy architecture remediation, cloud-native software development, design and integration of emerging technology capabilities including IIoT services, cyber-physical system concepts.
- **Domain expertise and commercial acumen, across:** Mining economics and planning, outbound logistics strategic planning, technology research & roadmap development, technology consulting, business development and advisory

Professional Experience

Digital Transformation Manager

Singapore | Perth, Australia

BHP Global Transformation (12 direct reports, 64 reporting staff)

March 2018 – Present

- Technology portfolio manager for a delivery organisation of software and hardware engineers, technical leads, design leads and product owners, leading key strategic business outcomes both from sensor and actuator to software, and across the mining value chain
- Integrated and rebuilt a disparate portfolio of technology pilot work into a product-oriented delivery structure aligned to a coherent architecture and customer facing OKRs,
- Created and drove a new ecosystem, exemplar portfolio and high-performance delivery culture resulting in significant improvement in employee engagement scores; significantly moving the needle in developing a high-performance delivery culture,

- Developed an outcomes-oriented culture that cut against legacy mindsets by limiting top-down planning, creating velocity and the capacity to fast-fail, creating a network of product owners practicing hypothesis driven design, introducing deliberate constraints, and driving a cloud-first mindset aligning and motivating from the C-suite level down.

Business Architecture Principal

Singapore | Santiago, Chile | Brisbane, Australia

BHP Technology Strategy & Innovation

December 2016 – March 2018

- Brought into the Digital Strategy team to build a world class Enterprise Architecture practice, later relocating to Singapore and working across Chile, Australia and the USA with Technology VPs and C-suite executives to embed the work and architecture and technical excellence mindsets and approaches globally,
- Worked closely with operational and technology leaders to design and implement technology strategies, reshape solution architectures, and to manage and direct large and complex technology and architectural change including embedding the business architecture framework into all technology project design work,
- Provided architectural leadership to each of the commodity planning teams by developing architectural models, reviewing solutions designs, roadmaps and integrated plans showing how technology initiatives are transforming and improving work across the organisation.

Technology Project Manager / Tech Lead / Solution Architect

Brisbane, Australia | Moranbah, Australia

BHP Billiton

January 2016 - December 2016

- Led the Digital Mine initiative, which was BHP's first investment in developing a future technology blueprint, distributed architecture and trial to remotely manage fixed plant processes and operations through publicly available cloud PaaS.
- Integrated a large group of partners (AWS ProServe, Cisco, IBM, Optimisation consultants, Hatch, University of Wollongong) and internal BHP resources in developing against a cyber-physical systems pattern.
- Developed solution architecture for and roadmaps to integrating train load out operations and the truck, shovel and dragline fleet management into the developed system-of-systems integration landscape.
- Led the development of a novel wireless plant water quality sensor that laid the blueprint for later work on Industrial Internet of Things appliances.

Asset Portfolio Strategic Planner – Technology and Logistics

Brisbane, Australia

BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA)

January 2015 – January 2016

- Responsible for the BHPB Coal business technology planning roadmap and strategy as part of the annual alignment planning cycle,
- Successfully worked with and aligned broad sets of executive and non-executive stakeholders on thought leadership and to pursue technology investment as a disruptive enabler in capital planning and allocation,
- Also owned strategy formation and capacity planning (2-5 and 5+ years) for the 80Mtpa outbound logistics portfolio, which included over 60 contracts relating to rail services, rail network access, intracompany agreements and the business's use of owned and third-party bulk commodity ports,
- Led a number of rail, port contract and supply improvement initiatives resulting in many tens of millions of dollars in productivity and cost out benefits and in securing more than AUD\$1 billion of rail and third-party port access as part of long term planning commitments.

- Information systems consultant aligned to Accenture's resource and operations group and involved in shaping, commercialising and delivering a number of complex and successful people, process and systems initiatives for resource clients and clients operating in capital-intensive industries in APAC; project team sizes ranging from 4 to 1200,
- Delivered and managed teams to deliver mobile and custom software delivery, operational effectiveness assessments, business analysis, value realisation work, ERP deployments, managed service delivery (including outsourcing), operating model definition and design, technology strategy and process interventions,
- Functional background and deep, client-facing global expertise as a SAP Plant Maintenance consultant working across maintenance processes, system integration, testing, data, business continuity planning and change management aspects of both global ERP implementation, upgrades and retrofit deployments.

Education

Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

Brisbane, Australia

Bachelor of Information Technology (with Distinction)

2007 – 2010

Bachelor of Business (with Distinction)

2007 – 2010

Central Queensland University (CQU)

Queensland, Australia

Graduate Diploma of Information Systems – Business Analysis (with Distinction)

2012

Certifications

Certified Scrum Product Owner (CSPO)

PRINCE2 Foundation

Justice of the Peace (Qualified), Queensland

Professional Membership

International Institute of Business Analysis (IIBA)

References

References available upon request