

DIMITAR CHAKAROV

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A versatile multi-tasker with enthusiasm for a wide range of technologies. Key interests include mobile apps, database design and API integration. At my best when designing and developing complex object-oriented applications. Strong programming experience in Swift (3y) and iOS (6y) - including Auto Layout, networking (consuming RESTful APIs) and Core Data. Good understanding of memory management, data structures, and algorithms. Some experience with TDD, continuous integration with Travis & Jenkins. Experience as a web and backend developer.

Good at taking a messy app and refactoring it in place, while still shipping regular releases. Done it 3 times so far - at Innosys (complete rewrite in Swift while keeping and updating the Objective-C app until the Swift one was ready); at What Now Travel (complete rewrite in Objective-C); at Seenit (rewrite in-place in Swift while shipping regularly; all new code in Swift)

A strong team leader with experience in communication and collaborative work across the team. Knows how to talk to designers, UX and PMs - gather and distribute knowledge among the team.

Key Career Achievements

- Created and took to market the Broker Assessment app for The Hollard Insurance Company Ltd (hollard.co.za) - the app modernised the lengthy and tedious process of assessing companies applying for insurance.
- Started off as the most junior developer on the team and quickly progressed to become the team lead.
- Built the on-ed.com educational platform from idea to finished product.
- Created and published 10 apps on the AppStore, including Po Kinata, one of the BG AppStore's top downloaded apps with 5k downloads in its first month.

Career History

May 2017 to present

Senior iOS Engineer at Seenit Digital (seenit.io) – SaaS

As part of the 2-person iOS team I am playing a major role in rewriting the company's iOS app in Swift, implementing major product changes in the process, such as moving from side bar navigation to using a tab bar; redesigning the UI to follow modern trends and creating a fresh user-centric app to engage and retain audiences. Some of the improvements include:

- switch to using MVVM-C with RxSwift and multiple coordinators

- using multiple storyboards containing all the app UI
- strictly writing all new code in Swift 4, leading to a more stable app with 60% of the code currently in Swift (with a goal to reach 95% in the next 3 months)
- continuous integration using Fastlane and Jenkins combined with GitFlow assures the latest code gets distributed to TestFlight and AppStore automatically

My role in the company is diverse - some of the other activities I am part of include:

- lead an internal UX project researching and developing a better in-app camera. The work included sketching, interviewing, user testing, creating prototypes and collaborating with the UX designer, the CPO and various client-facing people in the company
- I was voted one of the people who most embody the company values and as such I took a role in distilling the values and coming up with concrete plans how to sustain and improve them
- lead a task force for investigating and writing up a proposal for a complete rewrite of the mobile API used in the company's iOS and Android apps - collaborating with the Android team, the QA team and the CTO
- writing and social media initiatives, including writing articles, short news pieces covering the office life, organising a hackathon, and helping the marketing dept with various social media initiatives

Aug 2016 to Apr 2017

Senior iOS Developer at *What Now Travel* (www.whatnow.travel) – Travel

Took over the company app from a contractor and refactored it from a legacy iOS6 app to a modern app. Some of the improvements include:

- Change the data storage strategy from plist-based to CoreData.
- Move the interface from code to storyboards which enabled us to design for various devices and to include the designers into our workflow.
- Use Kanban (via JIRA) and code reviews to ensure transparency and code quality.
- Create and follow a class diagram of the app.
- Start writing unit tests and implement a workflow which include a CI server.
- Follow a strict warnings-as-errors and clang-static-analyser rules.

Apr 2015 to Jul 2016

Mobile Team Lead at *InnoSys* (www.innosys.co.za) – Insurance software

I took the role of team leader in addition to my role as a senior iOS engineer.

- Managing a team of 5 developers and testers across various platforms (C#, iOS, Android). Advising the team on methodologies and processes, optimising deployment workflows, task logging and bug reporting.
- In charge of team building and employee wellbeing at the company's Burgas office.
- Conducted a search for new developers and testers, attended 2 job fairs within 2 months and liaised with local university professors and managers; interviewed 31 candidates to hire a junior developer and a senior QA.
- Attended 3 developer conferences with team members, coaching them how to share what they learned with the rest of the team.

As part of my developer role, I created and took to market the Broker Assessment app. The app is written in Swift and is used by the brokers of The Hollard Insurance Company Ltd to assess the businesses which had applied for insurance. As a lead developer on the project I had

to transfer the requirements from business to the designers and communicate the app API endpoints with the backend developers. Key app features include:

- Authentication against server side API using tokens. Fast authentications by utilising iOS' keychain and Touch ID (where applicable).
- Securing the data by enabling data protection and saving the app images in CoreData. Injecting metadata into images before sending them to the server.
- Adaptive layout making sure the app works and feels good on any supported device.
- Data migrations to enable easy app update.

Jul 2013 to Mar 2015

Senior iOS Developer at InnoSys (www.innosys.co.za) – Insurance software

Took over the complex iOS4-compatible Mobile Risk Assessment app and updated it and made sure it was market-ready. The app is currently in use at Santam (santam.co.za), South Africa's leading short-term insurance company, as well as at Hollard Insurance Company, another large South African insurance company. Both companies requested a tailored version of the app and are constantly requesting new features. Some of the modifications to the app include:

- Breaking the tight coupling between most of the app modules.
- Migrating the app to iOS8+ and pruning all the magic numbers from the source code.
- Implementing JSON for the communications between the app and the server.
- Adding an extra layer of security via short-lived tokens workflow.
- Making sure the app works without crashing and losing data, while running on South Africa's unstable internet infrastructure.

Mar 2015 to Jul 2016

Consultant at CourseDot Ltd (coursedot.com) - Online education

I got offered a consulting part-time involvement at a prospective new startup in the EdTech field and decided to help them out. The ambitious goal of the company is to disrupt and democratise the market of IT trainings worldwide. My skills as both experienced developer and team leader with concrete experience in Education platforms enables the company to be more confident going forward and negotiating financing (after a successful seed round they are now raising series A).

Feb 2011 to present (not actively involved since 2016)

Co-founder at JI Apps Ltd (www.jiapps.com) – Software development

As a co-founder and the only mobile developer I got to wear many hats. Making offers, negotiating, supporting past projects, attending events, writing articles, etc. Some of the iOS apps I developed during that time include:

- BulsatcomTV app for the 2nd biggest cable tv provider in the country, an app where you can watch live tv if you have a subscription. <https://itunes.apple.com/bg/app/bulsatcomtv/id951451911?mt=8>
- GongPlay app for NOVA TV, part of Modern Times Group - the 2nd biggest TV network in the country. The app allows users to watch pay-per-view sporting event, most popular of which are the English Premiership football games. <https://itunes.apple.com/bg/app/gong-play/id1024489933?mt=8>

- MobileTV app - tv streaming app through which various local cable tv providers can stream their programming to end users. The app is currently in development with initial version waiting for review on the AppStore.
 - Mouse or House, a child development game. Reached #2 on the Bulgarian AppStore and #1 in Education and Family. <https://itunes.apple.com/bg/app/mouse-or-house/id822251283?mt=8>
 - Biscuits, a cookie-making simulator, for kids. <https://itunes.apple.com/bg/app/biscuits/id564642716?mt=8>
 - По Кината (Po Kinata), a cinema listings app for 11 Bulgarian cities. Reached #1 on the Bulgarian AppStore. Currently working on a new updated version.
 - Cities of Bulgaria, a reference app. Reached #1 on the Bulgarian AppStore.
- (Details on more projects are available upon request.)

Sep 2012 to Jan 2015

CTO at On-Ed (www.on-ed.com) – Online education

- Developed the core product, an online education platform.
- Managed a team of 7 developers, designers and testers.
- Implemented and trained the team to use the Git versioning software and decided on a workflow for releases.
- Integrated an open-source system for live webinars (Big Blue Button).
- Integrated PayPal and ePay payments.

Aug 2010 to Jul 2013 (then part time till Jun 2016)

Developer at AII Data Processing (www.aiidatapro.com) – Media/Information services

- Developed and supported 6 websites based on frameworks such as Codeigniter and Yii.
- Led the way in adopting the Yii framework over CodeIgniter by demonstrating how it's better suited for our projects.
- Integrated Elastic Search technology to develop user dashboards for the company's products.

Jun 2010 – Jan 2012

Web Developer at Spirali Studio (www.spiraliwebstudio.com) – Web development

Aug 2009 – Jun 2010

Computer Applications Engineer at Stiva Soft (www.stivasoft.com) – Web development

Jan 2009 – Aug 2009

Freelance - developed websites for Ojybo (e-commerce), zona.bg (portal), hey.bg (social network), bg-portal.ru (real estate), cenatanaistinata.com (fan site)

Nov 2006 - Dec 2008

Developer at Orbitel Inc.

Jan 2005 - Oct 2006

Customer Support at *Orbitel Inc.*

Qualifications & Certificates

2006 BEng in Electronics at Technical University (Sofia)

2012 CS188.1x: Artificial Intelligence – a course at BerkeleyX, an online learning initiative of the University of California, Berkeley through edX

(Human) Languages

Bulgarian (native), English (excellent).

Additional Information

Married to Nadya. Father of Stoyan and Alexander. Interests include levelling my Mage in WoW, watching TV shows and reading and writing books and short stories. I love football too – both watching and playing, although lately I only play foosball. I code in my spare time too, which is a bit of a cliché.