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A passionate hands-on Developer, who loves building things, solving problems, and sharing knowledge with those around me. My current focus is around distributed, cloud-based APIs, containerisation, automation, and coaching/mentoring of the more junior members of the team at CompareTheMarket.com (CTM). I’m a massive fan of simple code that is easy to read, easy to understand, and easy to test, as this helps everyone move faster!  
  
I have a lot of experience with .Net, having used C# since the early days of .Net Framework, and have spent the last 4+ years building and maintaining a range of micro services with .Net Core, MongoDB and AWS.  
More recently I've been learning F# in my own time, which has taught me both new ways of thinking and approaching problems; a process I'm finding both valuable and exciting.  
  
I get a real sense of fulfilment from teaching others, either pairing or mobbing, or on a larger scale:

- over lockdown I’ve delivered several hands-on workshops teaching colleagues about Test Driven Development and Property Based Testing.   
- Prior to lockdown I have given technical talks at various tech meetups and at the local college.  
- I am also on the organising team of DDD East Anglia.

# Recent accomplishments

## Design of build a library to Automating and improving our Load tests.

Designed and built a Python package to integrate with our Load Testing setup (Locust IO) to gather live usage stats on our services in Production (by querying Splunk) and automatically modelling our load tests to mimic how that service is used in Production. This package also performs validation and quality checks on our load test scripts to provide fast feedback on failures and ensure that no service endpoint goes untested. The package is now being adopted by other teams within CTM.

## Training our junior dev and getting them promoted.

I have been coaching a junior member of the team since she joined us on her final rotation as part of the graduate programme. When she arrived, she was thinking that she wanted to become a Business Analyst when the scheme finished. I took it as a personal challenge to show her what she could achieve in a more hands on role, working closely with her on a 1-2-1 basis. When the grad scheme finished, she applied for a junior developer role and joined our team, where we kept the relationship going. She has become a very valuable member of the team, recently promoted to Software Engineer, and we have set out more learning goals and objectives to get her moving in the direction of Senior.

## Delivering online training to Devs across CTM.

One of our Data Engineering teams were strugling to adopt Test Driven Development techniques so asked for volunteers to give some direction. I jumped at the chance to help get them up to speed. After figuring out where they were already, I put together a hands-on workshop showing them how we use TDD in our team.

This was particularly interesting to me as they are all Python developers, and at the time I’d had little exposure to Python, so had to learn the language to deliver the training in a Tech they would all be comfortable with.

After the workshop, I spent some time pairing and mobbing with people on the team to embed the new way of working. They now fully embrace the test first style of delivering code.

# Work History

## Senior Software Engineering @ ComparTheMarket.com: 2017 – Present

Building and maintaining a large suite of microservices, running on .Net Core & C#, to power the backbone of the backend for CTM’s online quoting engine.

This network of systems needs to be highly available, deal with high throughput and fast response times to deliver a smooth customer experience, which is achieved via a combination of resilience policies (Using Polly) and automated load testing.

My responsibilities in the team include ensuring high quality code, taking into consideration issues such as performance, resilience, security, and the long-term maintenance overhead. It also involves a lot of automation to reduce the team’s workload and keep us focused on the more difficult and challenging tasks.

Tech:

C#, .Net Core/.Net 5, Docker & Docker-compose, Mongo DB, Git, Locust IO (Load testing), Python, some exposure to Kafka, Bash, Linux, AWS, Splunk, Grafana, Swagger/Open Api

Techniques:

TDD, Continuous Integration, Automation, Agile/Kanban, XP

## Lead Software Engineer / Tech Lead @ CompareTheMarket.com 2012 – 2017

Promoted to Tech Lead of the Money team, where I had been working as a senior. This was a small team looking after just a few small projects.

However, the team started to grow, and more products were added to our list of responsibilities. At its peak, this team was maintaining software responsible for 32million pounds of revenue per annum and was soon used as an entry point for juniors; we would train them up and they would move out into other CTM Dev teams.

Success with this team led to a move to Tech Lead of the Motor Products, including Car, CTM’s most profitable product.

During my time on the motor team, I was also one of two people who designed the first iteration of BGL’s (CTM’s Parent company) first Tech Graduate Scheme, as well as overseeing the training and development of the junior developers across CTM.

Tech: C# .Net Framework, SQL Server, JQuery, WCF

## Senior Software Engineer @ ComparetheMarket.com 2011 – 2012

Success of the CTM ‘Separation’ project brought promotion, and the opportunity to work alongside Thought Works on a new project to deliver new Money Products, while transitioning away from Waterfall and into Agile Delivery, and more XP techniques.

This was a fantastic opportunity, introducing me to Test Driven Development, Dependency Injection, Automation, and a focus on quality that I had never seen before.

## Software Engineer @ Comparethemarket.com 2009 – 2011

Moved onto a big project to separate CTM from the rest of BGL Group in order to move independently. Complete rewrite of the quoting engine for Car and Van products using WCF, C#, SQL Server. Home insurance product followed soon after.

## Web Developer @ BGL Group 2008 – 2009

White Label insurance web sites to provide insurance quotes from multiple different brands. VB.Net, ASP. Talking to IBM back end.

## Web Developer @ Lightstone Interactive (formally Pool.Net) 2003 – 2008

My first job out of university in a small Software Agency, I started as a Junior Web Developer, initially working on some VBA front ends for SQL Server, generating reports for Alliance & Leicester Bank, and later working of the first online mortgage application process using the first version of .Net and C#.

## Professional Qualifications:

## BSC Information Technology – Loughborough University 2002 – 1st

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## Currently Learning:

F# and functional programming in general, including applying these techniques to object orientated focused languages such as C# and Python.

I’ve been playing with F# in my own time, and while I’m unable to use this knowledge directly in my day job, it has had a profound impact on the way I write and test code on a day-to-day basis, having introduced me to new methods and techniques, and giving me more background to draw upon.

I’m also learning Node.js, though I miss my compiler!

## Currently Reading List:

Domain Modelling Made Functional – Scott Wlaschin

Stylish F# - Kit Eason

Functional Programming in C# - Enrico Buonanno

## Other Interests:

Cycling, Bread Baking, Snowboarding and Archery