

SKILLS

Current

Recent

Dim & distant

ActiveMQ

Agile

Ant

ATDD/BDD

BASH (scripting)

Camel

CVS

ClearCase

ClearQuest

Coherence

Cucumber

CSS

CXF

Docker

Eclipse/MAT

EJB

FIX Protocol

Flex

GIT

Grafana

Guice

Hadoop

Hazelcast

Hibernate

HTML

IBM MQ

Ice

InfluxDB

IntelliJ

Introscope

Javascript

JAXB/RS/WS

JBoss

Jetty

jQuery

JProfiler

JSON

JSP/JSTL

JUnit

Kafka

KDB

Linux

Maven

MATLAB

MySQL

Oracle

OSGi

Puppet

Python

R

REST

RTC

Scala

Solace

Solaris

ServiceMix

SOAP

Spark

Spring/MVC

Subversion

SVG

JOHN DOWNING

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SUMMARY

20 years core Java & related technologies. Multi-threading. Memory and performance profiling. Test automation. Tech Lead experience.

EDUCATION(🎓) & EXPERIENCE

8/2017 – current

UBS Investment Bank / City, London / Perm

At UBS I work in FX Cash Execution IT, maintaining a pricing, distribution and trade capture stack based around *Flightdeck* - a precision pricing library which combines spot and interest rate feeds with margins and controls to price spot and stir instruments for client channels. Most recently I have been involved in the migration of this platform to a new low latency architecture - working alongside the quant developers who will own it going forward.

🎓 9/2016 – 7/2017

Goldsmiths College, University of London

Postgraduate Diploma in Data Science

Career break to study Data Science at Goldsmiths - including Python, R, MATLAB, Hadoop and Spark/Scala. Projects included automatic song lyric generation using ideas from topic modelling and RNNLM, and analysis & visualisation of TFL Cycle Hire journey data.

8/2015 – 7/2016

Royal Bank of Canada Capital Markets / City, London / Contract

Part of the FX Distribution team, this role involved the maintenance of a price streaming and trade capture platform, and the breaking up of a legacy system into microservices. I also helped streamline and automate the build and deployment processes, and instrument the platform - uploading performance metrics to InfluxDB for display on Grafana dashboards.

6/2014 – 6/2015

State Street Global Markets / Canary Wharf, London / Contract

At State Street I was part of an agile team, building components for their FX Accelerated Growth programme - specifically the development of OSGi bundles to route messages and generate back-to-back trades for risk management flows. As with HSBC, I was involved in the development of a test automation framework, this time using the Cucumber framework and ATTD.

3/2011 – 2/2014

HSBC Global Banking & Markets / Canary Wharf, London / Contract


At HSBC I was tech lead on the FlexRate project, building a greenfield Transactional FX (micropayments) platform. Achievements included the design of the externally facing REST API (which needed to work for clients who were not typical FX market participants), the design of a test automation framework (mis)using the Java Instrumentation API, and more playing about with classloading than should ever be necessary.

Swing
Sybase
Tibco
Tomcat
UML
Unix
Velocity
Weblogic/sphere
XML/XSD/XSLT

6/2009 – 3/2011

RBS Global Banking & Markets / Bankside, London / Contract

Third time at RBS, and again working on the FX RFQ trading platform – primarily the integration of new channels over FIX and Ice. The resulting increase in load (on what was by then a legacy application) provided many opportunities for investigating threading, timing and memory issues. One upshot being that, with help from Wily Introscope and Eclipse Memory Analyzer, I was able to track down a long-suspected memory leak in the pricing team's client-side library.

 **9/2008 – 9/2009**

Goldsmiths College, University of London

MSc Music Mind & Brain (Distinction)

Career break to study the “cognitive neuroscience of music” (so revisiting some of the ideas from my undergraduate degree, only this time with tunes). Dissertation: Investigating the relationship between kinematics and preferred beat period in the perception of rhythm.

4/2008 – 9/2008 RBS Global Banking & Markets / London / Contract

Back at RBS and working on the core FX RFQ trading platform – this time integrating a new rate provider into the pricing logic and migrating a legacy application onto the platform. As part of the latter I was able to resolve a major bottleneck in the client-side API by using a more fine-grained synchronization model.

4/2007 – 4/2008 UBS Investment Bank / London / Contract

My second stint at UBS, working on an app which managed trade lifecycles for IRD swaps. Part of a distributed front-to-back architecture, the application used XML over Tibco EMS to communicate with trade capture, analytics and risk/pricing components, and JAXB to convert from XML Schema types to Java DTOs for internal usage.

5/2006 – 4/2007 RBS Global Banking & Markets / London / Contract

My initial contract at RBS, working on their FX Bench platform. This was a typical server-side development role (core Java, multi-threading, Spring, Maven) with most issues revolving around performance, scalability and maintainability. Notably this required some creative approaches to Hibernate and caching, as the result of being constrained to use a legacy database schema.

3/2003 – 4/2006 UBS Investment Bank / London / Perm


Lead developer on the FX Web team, my achievements included a complete redesign of the FX Web (research & analytics) portal as well as the development of a home-grown interactive SVG analytics and charting solution.

6/2001 – 3/2003 BuildOnline / London / Perm

My role at BuildOnline was to develop collaborative services for the construction industry. This involved extensive use of core Java SE & Java EE technologies and included the development of custom low-level functionality for connection pooling and O/R mapping.

7/1999 – 4/2001 Quidnunc / London, New York, San Francisco / Perm

This was a junior dev role, although I was involved (to varying degrees) in the full development lifecycle - from requirements capture through to rollout & maintenance. Projects were typically Java EE architectures built around Weblogic or ATG Dynamo application servers and Oracle databases.

 **6/1999**

University of Sheffield

BSc Cognitive Science (1st Class)

Dissertation: Modelling a community of neural network agents, and their development of a shared “language” to describe their surroundings.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

8/2003

Sun Certified Enterprise Architect for the Java 2 Platform

2/2001

Sun Certified Programmer for the Java 2 Platform

LANGUAGES

Spanish (tengo que practicar mucho)

INTERESTS

Music, songwriting, skiing, mind/brain/consciousness