

SKILLS

Current

Recent

Dim & distant

ActiveMQ

Agile

Ant

ATDD/BDD

BASH

Camel

CVS

ClearCase

ClearQuest

Coherence

Cucumber

CSS

CXF

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

KDB

Linux

Maven

MATLAB

Mockito

MySQL

Oracle

OSGi

Puppet

Python

R

REST

RTC

Scala

Scrum

Solace

Solaris

ServiceMix

SOAP

Spark

Spring/MVC

Subversion

SVG

JOHN DOWNING

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SUMMARY

19 years core Java & related technologies. 15 years in banking (FX). 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 am part of the FX Cash Execution team, currently involved in the re-architecture of our pricing, distribution and trade capture stack. This is a re-write of a precision pricing library (*Flightdeck*) – responsible for producing marked-up prices from raw spot and interest rate feeds – and a distribution and trade capture platform (*ACE*), with the aim of improving performance and supporting faster release cycles.

🎓 9/2016 – 9/2017

Goldsmiths College, University of London

I took a break for a Postgraduate Diploma in Data Science at Goldsmiths, with a tech stack 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

At RBC I was part of the FX Distribution team, maintaining an FX Streaming platform as well as migrating components from a legacy system to a REST microservices architecture using Solace middleware. Alongside application development, I helped develop a framework for automated integration testing and streamlined the CI/deployment process. I also instrumented the Streaming platform, uploading performance metrics (method call durations, GC pause times, host stats) to InfluxDB for subsequent 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. This involved the development of OSGi bundles for their Global Transaction Hub (an ESB, based on Apache ServiceMix), to provide message routing functionality and back-to-back trade generation for FX risk management flows. As with HSBC, I was involved in the development of a test automation framework – this time using the Cucumber framework – which allowed the team to practice ATDD/BDD. I was also involved in pushing forward the development of the GTH platform.

3/2011 – 2/2014

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

At HSBC I was technical lead on the FlexRate project – building a greenfield Transactional FX trading platform. Notable achievements included the design


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

of the externally facing REST API, the design of a test automation framework (mis)using the Java Instrumentation API, and more playing about with classloading than should ever be necessary. There was also more emphasis onDDD in this role, for example the identification of key domain concepts and terminology. This was both for external use, since FlexRate clients were often not typical FX market participants, and also within the team - the latter involving ongoing attempts to ensure that all stakeholders agreed upon (and stuck to) a shared way of describing the problem domain and functional requirements.

6/2009 – 3/2011

RBS Global Banking & Markets / Bankside, London / Contract

For this contract, I was back at RBS (following a break for a Masters degree) and once again working on the core FX RFQ trading platform. Primarily this involved the integration of various ECN channels over FIX/Radianz, as well as integrating internal channels over ZeroC's 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 API.

 **9/2009**

Goldsmiths College, University of London

MSc Music Mind & Brain (Distinction)

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

This project involved RBS' core FX RFQ trading platform, specifically the integration of a new rate provider into the pricing logic and the migration of a legacy application onto the platform. I also discovered a major bottleneck in the client-side API, which I was able to resolve using a more fine-grained synchronization model. Technology wise, the platform at this time was just core Java and Sybase, with client connectivity via XML over the web (with an optional Swing GUI on top). Code components were mostly proprietary, since the initial coding of the app predated open-source.

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

For my second stint at UBS, I worked on an application which modelled the trade lifecycles of IRD swaps and managed their dependencies on market events. 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 used 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 involved their benchmark rate trading 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 a legacy database schema.

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

This was a permanent role (my first in banking), where I was Technical Lead of the FX Web team. Achievements included a complete redesign of the FX

Web research and 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 proprietary applications aimed at collaborative services for the construction industry. This involved extensive use of core Java SE and Java EE technologies, and included 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