Damian Jackson

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| Professional Attributes | I have worked for many years in an Agile environment implementing pair programming and test driven development, and am a firm believer in the benefits that can be gained from this practice.  I have a good knowledge of C, C++, C#, Javascript and Java. I also have experience of developing on Windows, Linux and Mac environments.  I have worked in some form of research and development for many years which has increased my understanding of the need for continual innovation and how best to integrate new ideas into an existing product.  I have had the opportunity to work both as a part of a team as well as being a team lead. I have experience of managing people, allowing them the freedom to try new ideas while ensuring the project remains on time and budget.  I enjoy all aspects of knowledge sharing, which is important in an industry that changes rapidly, and I am happy to provide both technical and non-technical talks or to mentor junior engineers.  I am highly self motivated and am able to manage my time. I am able to weigh up the pressures from competing customers to decide on priorities and then follow through to delivery.  I have experience of designing and implementing highly scalable systems as well as high throughput, high resilience systems. |
| Skills | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Java | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | Javascript | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | C# | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | | C/C++ | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | PHP | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | Scala | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | | Spring | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | Hibernate | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | Jersey | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | | NodeJs | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | Lift | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | JSP/JSF | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | | JQuery | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | Knockout | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | AngularJS | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | | SOAP | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | REST | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | JUnit | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | | Jasmine | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | NUnit | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | Mockito | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | | Oracle | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | MySQL | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | Postgres | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | | Mongo | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | Agile | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | Kanban | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | | Scrum | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | TDD | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | AWS | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | | Heroku | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | Git | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | SVN | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | | TFS | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | Windows | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | Linux | ⚫⚫⚫⚫⚫ | |
| Experience | Worldpay– Cambridge, Cambridgeshire *March 2014 – Present*  Senior Engineer  I am employed as part of the Small Change Team. This group is primarily concerned with making rapid changes and enhancements to the system with an eye for expedited deployment into the live system. Evolving customer requirements, as well as the need to correct existing issues drives much of the work.  The code base consists of a group of legacy java servers and associated JSPs. This environment presents a unique challenge due to the lack of test coverage, requiring the addition of new unit and integration tests as well a care to ensure changes do not have unintended side effects.  Much of the current business logic is contained in an Oracle database in the form of stored procedures. Large portions of the user requests are for extending existing, or creating new, reports to be run against the existing data. This work involves the modification and creation of PL/SQL procedures to extract and format the necessary information.  Key Achievements:   * The development of an in-house system to simulate the role of PayPal in the acquiring process. * I have helped introduce a kick-off meeting between developer, business analyst and tester at the start of each new story. * Helping expand the range of available test tools to help automate the development of data for scenario testing.   Compare The MarkeT – Peterborough, Cambridgeshire *October 2013 – March 2014*  Senior Software Engineer  I worked as part of the team in charge of maintaining the motor insurance web journey. This involved some maintenance of the existing legacy journey as well as the continued development of a new, more easily maintainable journey.  My main responsibilities were ensuring the software developed within the group was of a high standard, met the story requirements and conformed to the agreed software architecture. I also helped investigate new technologies that might be of benefit to the current solution.  Key Achievements:   * Worked as part of a small innovation team to rapidly develop a new mechanism for claiming a Meerkat toy at the end of a journey; a known customer pain point. * Helped transform the weekly code kata into a more dynamic and inclusive experience, increasing the overall participation level of the team. * Introduce Sonar to provide code quality metrics, which I was responsible for managing.   CashFlows – Fulborne, Cambridgeshire *July 2012 – October 2013*  Software Engineer  I worked as part of the Core Development team supporting the development of innovative banking solutions. In this role I helped support both the acquiring and banking teams, as well as providing architectural guidance on new development.  I helped lead the business in designing and implementing a REST based architecture to assist with scalability and resilience of the platform. This was a delicate task requiring extensive testing to ensure that no disruption occurred to normal business activity as the new services are brought online.  Due to the nature of financial software development great care is required when handling personal data, especially relating to passwords and account details. Therefore we performed regular internal code audits to ensure such data is always secure, enabling the business to remain PCI compliant. I took the lead in co-locating all authentication and authorisation services behind an internal service interface to help with our regular compliance audits.  Key Achievements:   * Assisted in the development of a new business banking application, enabling users to manage their business bank and acquiring accounts via a single web-based interface. * Lead the design and development of REST based services to replace several legacy back-end applications that were not easily scalable. * Provided guidance on the changes required to implement a more scalable and resilient architecture for the new banking platform. * Helped lead the company transition from local to cloud storage for both source code and task tracking. * Explained the system design and operation to the external companies that showed an interest in purchasing the business.   Convergys – Cambourne, Berkshire *November 2010 – July 2012*  Senior Analyst  I worked for the Labs group within Global Product and Solution Architecture division. The group was responsible for investigating technologies that may be of future benefit to the business, as well as providing support to the various business units in the form of consultancy and customer demonstrations.  I spent much of my time as part of a team working on the creation of a demonstration application designed to act as a fast data cache, with the intention of reducing the workload on the legacy rating engine and hence reducing deployment and running costs; a project that was subsequently incorporated into the product. I was responsible for the overall software architecture, documented using UML, as well as the majority of the development and testing. While this was a new application, much work was required to integrate it as seamlessly as possible into the existing legacy application framework.  Key Achievements:   * Architect and lead developer for a demonstration system providing an intermediate fast data cache between the telecoms network and the company billing system. * Provided leadership and oversight to an Indian based team selected to productise the fast-cache demonstrator. * Produced a proof of concept web-based shopping application for O2 that allowed users to purchase live streaming services from their mobile. * Carried out trials of Amazon Web Services to determine if they provided any direct business benefit.   Thales UK – Wells, Somerset *March 1999 – November 2010*  Senior Software Engineer  I worked in the Future Systems Group, whose primary role was to research new ideas and technologies in line with future business goals. Within the group I was technical lead and software design authority for the Government funded ASTRAEA project. In this role I was responsible for the design and implementation of all software developed during the project, ensuring that all the necessary processes were followed and that the software was developed to a high standard. This role also required management of the other developers on the project, ensuring that work was assigned not only in line with the schedule but also with the strengths of the individual developers.  Previous to joining the group I worked for the Nimrod Mk2 Mission Support System. I started as a software engineer working on the acoustic analysis system before becoming the Team Lead for the acoustic planning system, where I was responsible for ensuring delivery of the system in time for scheduled flight trials.  Key Achievements:   * Providing guidance throughout the business regarding choice of technology and system architecture for both existing and future projects. * Technical lead for the company's contribution to the three year Government funded ASTRAEA project. Responsible for ensuring successful integration with external partners such as QinetiQ and BAES. * Team lead on a 2-year project for uploading acoustic parametric data onto an Mk2 Nimrod as part of pre-mission support.   The Meteorological Office – Bracknell, Berkshire *1998 – 1999*  Scientific Software Engineer  During my tenure at the Met Office I worked as part of the forecast team. The work helped increase forecast accuracy via improved numerical algorithms. My area of study was tropical hurricane tracks. This work involved making physics-based changes to the model, running a new simulation and then analysing the results.  Key Achievements:   * Provided updates to the forecast model for Atlantic hurricanes based on comparing trials with recorded data. * Independently developed an interface to the Cray T3 supercomputer job queue to enable job scheduling to be controlled via a browser interface.   Tessella Support Services – Abingdon, Oxfordshire *1997 – 1998*  Software Analyst  Tessella is a software consultancy firm that specialises in scientific software solutions. A majority of the work was carried out off-site, working for various external customers. I also spent some time in the Abingdon office as the local UNIX administrator, where I was responsible for implementing several improvements to how the system interfaced with the outside world.  Key Achievements:   * Worked as part of a team that successfully developed software for analysing and displaying sea surface temperature data provided by satellites. * Implemented a system to control the sending of large attachments via email to external customers, ensuring this did not impact the performance of the internal network. |
| Education | Australian National University – Canberra, Australia *1992 – 1996*  Doctorate, Physics  University of Southern Californa– Los Angeles, USA *1990 – 1992*  Masters Degree, Physics  University of Essex– Colchester, Essex *1987 – 1990*  BSc (Hons), Physics (Class I) |