Ben Deane

Software Engineer

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I geek out on C++, languages, algorithms, architecture, APIs, teaching, functional and network programming.

Experience

2018-current **Principal Software Engineer**, *Blizzard Entertainment*, Irvine, CA.

I work on the team that provides SDKs for the Battle.net platform to teams within Activision-Blizzard. Mostly C++, on Win32, macOS, CentOS, mobile and console platforms. As a Principal Software Engineer, I am a strategic contributor to Blizzard's companywide engineering culture and knowledge.

- o Talks and workshops on engineering techniques and tools (e.g. Test Driven Development).
- o Coordinate internal "engineering lightning talks".
- Created and moderate two internal mailing lists ("Good Code" and "C++").
- o Co-lead the mentorship program for Computer Game Science students at UC Irvine.

2014–2018 Principal Software Engineer, Blizzard Entertainment, Irvine, CA.

Tech lead for the Battle.net Desktop Application: C++ and JavaScript on Win32 and macOS.

- o Shipped and supported the Battle.net Desktop App.
- o Mentored and managed a team of 8 engineers.
- Worked with engineers and PMs to plan, write tech specs, develop technical roadmaps.
- o Code and API reviews and documentation, bug fixing, codebase modernization.
- Architected and implemented systems: presence, network protocol handling, etc.

2010–2014 Lead Software Engineer, Blizzard Entertainment, Irvine, CA.

Led the team that built the Battle.net service that is currently used by all of Blizzard's games, Destiny 2, and the Battle.net Desktop App. C++ on Win32, OS X, and CentOS.

- Managed a team of 3-6 engineers.
- Handled live ops for my team's Battle.net systems.
- Architected and implemented:
 - the social systems and routing infrastructure of the Battle.net server cloud.
 - the client APIs used by the game teams.
 - queueing and game allocation among available game servers.
 - the cooperative matchmaking service for *Diablo III*.

2008–2010 Lead Software Engineer, Blizzard Entertainment, Irvine, CA.

Led a team of 6 that built the Battle.net platform for *StarCraft II*, *Heroes of the Storm*, and *World of Warcraft*. C++ and ActionScript on Win32, Mac OS X, and RHEL. I built social systems, wrote the system to download and cache data on the client, and implemented an ActionScript-to-C++ FFI and data marshaling system.

2005-2008 Lead Software Engineer, Electronic Arts, Playa del Rey, CA.

Lead engineer on *Tiberium*, a hybrid FPS/RTS in the *Command & Conquer* universe using the Unreal 3 engine on PC, Xbox 360, and PS3. I did extensive work on improving lighting, and on threading and optimization. In October 2008, EA cancelled the project.

2003–2005 Senior Software Engineer, Electronic Arts, Playa del Rey, CA.

Network game lead for *Goldeneye: Rogue Agent*, an FPS that shipped on Xbox and PS2. I implemented the core of the network game, working with a remote team in Montréal that was building levels and adding features.

2001–2003 **Software Engineer**, Kuju Entertainment, Godalming, UK.

PS2 and Xbox development. Lead engineer while finalling *Reign of Fire*, network lead for *Warhammer 40,000: Fire Warrior*, one of the first online PS2 titles.

1995–2001 **Software Engineer**, *Bullfrog/Electronic Arts*, Guildford/Chertsey, UK.

Jack-of-all-trades: gameplay, systems, tools, UI, networking, localization, audio.

Conference Talks

CppCon 2015 Testing Battle.net

CppCon 2016 Using Types Effectively

CppCon 2016 std::accumulate: Exploring an Algorithmic Empire

C++Now 2017 constexpr ALL the Things! (with Jason Turner – Best Presentation Award)

C++Now 2018 Declarative Style in C++

(Best Presentation Award)

Miscellaneous Skills

Expert C++, git

Intermediate Python, Haskell, JavaScript, Unix, Lisp, French

— Education

1992–1995 MA (Cantab) Computer Science.

Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge

The Boring Stuff

UK citizen, US permanent resident. References by request.