Stephen Brown

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Experience

2013 - Current

Bank of America, *Programmer (Assistant Vice President)*, UK, Front Office Trade Capture. I've been a key member of the Equity Trade Capture team since joining in 2013. The Equity Trade Capture team is responsible for developing Booking Tool, a complex application used to manage the initial trade booking and workflow. I worked on all parts of the application, spanning from the C# frontend to the Java backend and release scripts, and everything in-between. Responsibilities also included interacting with Markitwire (an automated inter-bank trade settlement system), performing regulatory checks, and communicating with downstream systems.

Much of my initial work focussed on the C# frontend to Booking Tool, a WinForms based application that communicates with the Java backend via XML over REST. It's used by around 1000 users in the bank. Particular accomplishments and improvements include: helping move from .Net 2 to .Net 4.5, upgrading the UI libraries used, profiling the application to make many operations take 100x less time, adding centralised logging, and implementing many features to make it easier to book trades. Working on this for two years has given me a great deal of experience working with UIs and being able to respond quickly to requests for changes and new features, as well as a excellent understanding of how trading works in a bank.

The Java backend is a multithreaded, multi-region application that can process an extremely high volume of trades, as well as monitoring trades coming in from other sources to provide user alerts and workflows. From working with this team for the past 2 years, I have developed significant experience in working with high volume, mission critical trading systems. My work with release automation and monitoring has also been recognised in the bank and I am leading several long term improvement efforts in this area.

I regularly meet with Traders and Middle office users to discuss new requirements, as well as participating in high level steering meetings. Additionally, I've hosted cross-team collaboration and learning sessions between technology support and development in order break down barriers between teams and increase knowledge sharing.

Project highlights while in the Trade Capture team include:

- **Logstash integration:** To increase the supportability of our C# application, I implemented a log4net appender that logged all messages to a central Logstash instance. This could be added to any C# application in less than a minute to provide instant searchable log messages from every user in a single screen.
- **Ansible:** To reduce deployment failures and time to market for new features, I led a project to move to Ansible releases for Trade Capture. This involved working with other developer and operations teams to implement Ansible playbooks, replacing the semi-scripted, semi-manual release process. This was then adopted by other teams within Equity technology, as they could quickly see the business and technological improvements over past processes
- **Hot-Hot servers:** To increase availability and speed of our production systems, I implemented both DNS and HTTP level load balancers into our architecture. This allowed us to add additional production servers in each region, allowing us to fail over or deploy servers with no downtime. This also involved significant work on the Java application to ensure that all servers were kept in sync and didn't conflict when updating trades.
- **REST/Swagger:** To allow other teams to benefit from the high performance system we had developed, we opened up our internal APIs using a REST/HTTP interface. The previous alternative was to use various socket based APIs that each had their own data format - I developed a single consistent JSON based REST api which was easy to use and trivial to develop against. This was automatically documented with Swagger.
- **Git:** To increase developer productivity, I implemented plugins for an open source Git server which allowed it to interact with the Bank's authorisation and authentication systems. Other teams rapidly migrated to the solution I built, and future plans include opening this out to the rest of the bank.
- Technologies used: **C#, Java 8, Scala, Python, SQL/Oracle, Ansible, Haproxy, Git, JUnit, nUnit, Swagger, REST, IoC (AutoFac), Teamcity, Jetty, Tibco, EMS, JMS, Guava, JQuery, Bootstrap, HTML5, Visual Studio, IntelliJ, Maven, NuGet, SSL Client Certificates, Kerberos, XML, JDBC, Toad, DevExpress, Winforms, Linux**

2011 - 2013	**Bank of America**, *Programmer (Graduate)*, UK, Back office Controls Technology.

As a graduate in Bank of America in the Bank office controls technology team, I was initially focused on reconciliation development using Fiserve Frontier. Initial responsibilities included platform improvements, development of SSRS reports, and enhancement of release technologies.

As the Bank began a new project to move trading systems to Python, I was asked to create a new team and application to reconcile all new trading systems of record with the legacy system. This involved developing technologies to deal with a very high volume of data, and a UI capable of providing access to the results. This system then grew to be able to certify parts of the new system as being ready for use. I was involved in hiring and training approximately 15 new members of the team.

Project highlights while in the Back office Controls Technology team include:
- **Pricing everything:** To do truly independent checks of the data quality of the new Python based systems, we independently priced every deal in the bank, every night. This involved developing map-reduce algorithms to manage the considerable number of deals needing to be priced. Particular attention and development work was required to deal with the very large input and output size of the problem.
- **Additions to new Financial stack:** During development of the pricing and reconciliation technologies, it became clear that there were elements missing in the new financial stack that were needed to be able to run consistent pricing across the entire bank. I therefore put together proposals, got agreement from every line of business and the core technology team, and then organised the rollout of the changes across all lines of business.
- **Automated review testing:** To reduce potential problems caused by bad commits, I developed processes that checked for new review requests, composed a testing environment and then ran the full test suite over a distributed processing grid. This new mechanism reduced the time to wait for testing results from 20 minutes to 1 minute.
- Technologies used: **Python, NoSQL, Parallel computation (2000+ node clusters), WPF, Python.Net, Quartz, unittest2, Lettuce, Linux, Sybase, MSSQL, Frontier, SSIS**

Summer 2010	**OpenStreetMap**, *Google Summer of Code Student*, UK.

I was accepted into Google Summer of Code to work on an open source Android application called OpenSatNav. My project was to implement turn by turn navigation into the application. This was successful, and I had time to implement other enhancements such as a GPX trace upload function.
- Significant development on an open source Android application
- Collaborated with team members and translators around the world
- Managed and triaged bugs
- Took on responsibility for managing release schedule
- Technologies used: **Java, Android, SVN, OpenStreetMap, Google Play Store, XML, GPS**

Summer 2008, Summer 2009	**In4Systems**, *Programmer*, UK, Asset Management.

During the summer holidays I worked for a local software company that specialised in property assert management software. Working in a small team, we developed a new web based interface for the software using Ruby on Rails. This opportunity gave me an excellent understanding of the tools and processes used for professional software development.
- Web Development using Ruby on Rails and Sybase
- Worked as part of a team to deliver the new web-based version of an existing asset management product.
- Made significant use of AJAX and JavaScript to smooth the user experience
- Performed unit testing and automated testing using Ruby web testing frameworks
- Technologies used: **Ruby on Rails, Sybase, Redmine, SVN**

Education

2007-2011	**University of Warwick**, *2:1 Master of Engineering in Computer Science*, Coventry, UK, Full Time.
2001-2007	**Forest School, Winnersh**, *A Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Geography. 10 GCSEs*.

Achievements

2011 **Qualified NPLQ Lifeguard and BCU First Aider**

2013 **Kayak Level 1 coach**

2013 **Certified Scrum master**

Other interests

I'm a keen whitewater kayaker, and enjoy most outdoor sports. Additionally, I contribute to several open source projects in **Python, Go and Javascript.**