

Firoz Ansari

Experienced Mobile Engineer

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Profile

I am an experienced mobile software engineer with 8+ years of commercial native mobile development experience which includes over 10 published Android apps including app which ranked in top 10 in the UK (Stagecoach Bus app currently ranked 9th in Map and Navigation section in the UK), app which is highly rated in the play store (TopCashback UK app 4.5/5 based on over 16K reviews) and app which won award (Gone For Good app won Best not for profit award at Big Chip Awards 2016).

I have successfully demonstrated my ability to design, develop and maintain complex, modularized mobile apps with scalable and testable clean architecture which are used by millions of users on a daily basis. I have also got proven experience in leading a team and working in an agile test-driven environment, providing support for change, fault and release management. During my engineering career, I have proved myself as a Polyglot software engineer by working in the codebases written in Swift, Python, C#, JavaScript etc. with ease apart from working in my usual Java/ Kotlin codebases.

Apps I have contributed

Meerkat App: I have been contributing to the Meerkat app where you'll find all the best things that Compare the Market has to offer like amazing deals in insurance, rewards, free credit report etc. It has been downloaded over a million times and has an average rating of 3.9.

Link: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ctm.cinema&hl=en_GB&gl=US

Stagecoach Bus Android App: The app has been downloaded more than a million times and ranked 11th in the Google Play UK maps and navigation category with an average rating of 4.3 around the time when I left Stagecoach.

Link: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.stagecoach.stagecoachbus>

TopCashback apps (UK, US and India): The UK version of the app has already been downloaded more than a million times and ranked consistently among the top 50 shopping apps in the UK with an average rating of 4.4.

Link: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.topcashback.topcashback>

Gone For Good app: I developed the Android version of award winning app Gone For Good (Best not for profit award at Big Chip Awards 2016) while I was working for Reason Digital.

Link: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.reasondigital.goneforgood>

Show and Tell app: An app designed mainly for children with autism to optimise circus experience.
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.org.circus_starr.showandtell&hl=en_GB

Other apps include: Biosite Inform app, Safety app for charity National Ugly Mugs and AnsAR (augmented reality app which I developed as a part of my MSc project).

Technical Skills

Android: Since publishing my first app in the play store about 9 years ago, I have developed a deep familiarity with Java, Kotlin, Android Studio and Gradle build system and also have had experience with a variety of tools and technology. To point out a few,

- Advanced experience of working with commonly used Android libraries both from Google and third parties including but not exclusively: Android Jetpack (KTX, CameraX, Navigation, Room, WorkManager, Compose), Dagger Hilt, Retrofit, RxJava, Live data and Data Flow, Data Pagination, Mockk, Espresso, etc.

- Deep familiarity with Google Map SDK (implemented live bus movement on the map).
- Experience of data persistence using Realm and Room.
- Good understanding of architectural patterns like MVP, MVVM and MVI.
- Applied knowledge of SOLID principles, design patterns, data structure and algorithms.
- Proficient with reactive programming (RxJava and RxKotlin).
- In-depth experience of developing complex user interfaces and implementing custom animations/ transitions.
- Strong understanding and experience with REST and GraphQL based APIs
- Strong knowledge of application security principles, cryptography and secure coding practices like certificate pinning.
- Third party SDK and API integration like AWS, Firebase, Facebook, Braintree etc.
- Advanced experience of version control (Git), unit testing (JUnit 4/5), Project Management (JIRA) CI/CD (Jenkins, Bitrise), code quality tools (JaCoCo, Detekt, Danger, SonarQube).
- Experience of integrating Analytics (Google), Crash Reporting (Crashlytics/ Sentry) and Performance Profiling Providers (Firebase) and Push notification.
- Experience of writing and maintaining unit, UI/ integration, end-to-end Tests for robustness, including edge cases, usability, and general reliability following TDD approach.
- Experience in identifying, debugging and resolving complex production issues.
- Experience of mentoring and supporting other developers through pair programming and knowledge sharing.
- Continuously discover, evaluate, and implement new technologies to maximise development efficiency.

iOS: Although my current iOS experience mostly involves working on a few Github personal projects using Swift, I have done bug fixing/ code reviews / releases on commercially available iOS apps (Meerkat app, Stagecoach, TopCashback and Gone For Good). My iOS experience includes

- Solid experience developing native iOS applications using Swift.
- Solid experience with Xcode IDE, including defining interfaces using Interface Builder, Storyboards and XIBs with Auto Layout.
- Good experience with native Apple frameworks including Foundation, UIKit, Core Data, Core Animation, Core Graphics and Core Text.
- Good knowledge and understanding of app architecture (MVC, MVVM and VIPER), modularisation, frameworks and CocoaPods/ Carthage/ Swift Package Manager.
- Experience with XCTest in particular and unit/ UI testing in general.

Employment History

Compare the Market / BGL Group, London

May 2021 - present

Current Position: Senior Software Engineer

Brief description: Although I started as a mid-senior Software Engineer, I got promoted to Senior Software Engineer. Currently I'm leading the work of designing and developing Android libraries written in Kotlin in the platform team. For example, I worked on the User-Session library module which encapsulates all the functionality related to the CTM app users and their identification, authorization, and authentication. I have also helped the Android Experience team integrate those libraries into the Meerkat Android app. My other notable work in the platform team includes working on improving/automating CI/CD workflows, increasing test automation coverage, writing and publishing documentation (using Dokka) etc.

Apart from writing high quality code, I have also been involved in code reviews, meetings (stand-up, sprint planning, retrospectives). I have actively collaborated with other engineers, designers, product managers and SDETs to make sure that the features/ bug fixes I deliver are robust and work as intended. To point out a few of my contributions:

- I have worked on some interesting functionalities implementing Firebase remote config, push notifications, Google map displaying Restaurant information, processing data from GraphQL endpoints etc.
- I have documented Android TechRadar which keeps track of the versions of different libraries and tools we use for development of the Meerkat Android App.

- I have utilised my expertise in CI/CD to improve Bitrise workflow for Meerkat Android app. I have optimised the workflow by removing redundant workflows and also suggested ways to reduce build times.
- I have paired with SDETs in finding a solution for setting up Appium for UI Flow testing in Android. I suggested ways to set up runtime mocking for Appium testing.
- On several occasions I have collaborated effectively with iOS engineers, backend engineers and product managers. For example, implementation of contract testing, identifying and fixing production issues etc.
- I volunteered to do innovation work with the Observability team to evaluate APM tools and find a replacement for Splunk.
- I have also given a presentation in the Android Guild meeting on several topics like app performance benchmarking, Android TechRadar etc.

Biosite Systems/ Assa Abloy Group, Solihull

December 2020 - March 2021

Position held: Senior Android Engineer

Brief description: As a senior engineer, I worked on an Android app called Biosite Inform which utilises MVI, Rx, Kotlin and Clean Architecture. Biosite Inform helps in design and complete digital forms online and offline - designed for use within the construction industry. The app features Digital Forms, Workflows and Snagging (Defect Management) to dramatically reduce paperwork and free up time to manage project progress on site through real-time mobile collaboration.

Stagecoach Group Plc, Manchester

October 2018 - November 2020

Position held: Android Tech Lead / Senior Software Engineer

Brief description: As Android Tech Lead, I managed and mentored a team of developers while working hands-on. Apart from maintaining and adding functionalities to existing Stagecoach apps (Stagecoach UK Bus app, Oxford Tube app etc.), I contributed to the vision and long-term technical strategy. The UK Bus app is currently downloaded more than a million times and 11th in the Google Play UK maps and navigation category (November, 2020). My most notable contribution to the app was the implementation of a live map displaying real time bus movement features in the current Stagecoach Bus Android app. During COVID-19 crisis, I implemented "busy bus" functionality which helped customers visualise how busy a bus was for social distancing purposes. Another notable contribution of mine was the Google Pay integration in the app during the Google Pay event at Google London office where I also did a technical presentation on it.

TopCashback Ltd, Horwich, Greater Manchester

May 2016 - October 2018

Position held: Mobile Developer

Brief description: At Topcashback, I was solely responsible for improving and maintaining the TopCashback Android apps (UK, US and Indian versions), adding functionalities and giving users high quality and innovative experience. The UK app has already been downloaded more than half a million times and ranked consistently among the top 50 shopping apps in the UK. During my time, 130K+ TopCashback members used the app regularly every month with 99.9% crash free app sessions. I contributed not only to the app user experience redesign, but also wrote clean and efficient code using SOLID principles using the latest Android APIs and libraries to make it robust and successful.

I had also experienced of working at the .NET mobile server consisting of mobile service and cashback data service written in C#/VB.NET and a portal for bespoke mobile contents using Angular and .NET Core 2.0.

Apart from my usual development duties, I have also done interviews for developers and mentored junior developers in the mobile team.

Reason Digital Ltd, Manchester

July 2014 - May 2016

Position held: Software Developer

Brief description: As an Android developer, I was Involved in several Android projects including Gone For Good app, Show and Tell app and NUM Safety app which demonstrate my capabilities as a strong Android developer.

I also contributed to several .NET projects including 1Med (a bespoke CMS for Manchester Medical School) and MyKindaFuture (<https://www.mykindafuture.com/>). My experience includes

implementing functionality like contextual help, document conversion, full-text document search etc in C#.

Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester

Jan 2014 - July 2014

Position held: Data Quality Analyst (Strategic Planning and Management Information department)

Main responsibilities involved supporting the effective running of Strategic Planning and Management Information processes, in particular supporting the design and implementation of data quality processes and systems.

Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA), Manchester, UK May 2008 - July 2012

Positions held: Clerical Officer, Assistant Logistics Administrator, General Assistant and General Marker.

Bankra D. Q. High Madrasah (A government funded secondary school in India) 2002-2008

Position held: Teacher of English and ICT.

Faizul Quran High School (A private secondary school in India)

1999-2002

Position held: Teacher of English and ICT.

Education and Training

MSc Computing (Manchester Metropolitan University, UK) (**Distinction**) 2012-2013

Course modules included MSc Project, Enterprise Programming, Advanced Database System, Information System Management and Strategy, Object Oriented Programming, Multimedia and Internet Application.

BA (Honours) in English Literature (Calcutta University, India)

1996-1999

Optional course modules included Economics and Politics.