

# J Alan Brogan

Senior Software Engineer

Email: [interviews@al-got-rhythm.net](mailto:interviews@al-got-rhythm.net)

LinkedIn: <https://ie.linkedin.com/in/algotrhythm>

---

## Summary

I have gained over 50,000 hours of Unix experience (with over 10,000 hours in Python, Bash, C, ...) while developing software, teaching teams and creating companies. I would prefer to work in Kerry (Ireland), online, oder in Ländern wo man Deutsch spricht. Currently specializing in Open Source Compliance, and have worked at all means of engineering value from software source code. I'm good at all the means we know about so far, but particularly interested in those no-one else seems to be thinking about, yet.

---

## Experience

### Senior SCM Engineer at S3 Group

January 2014 - Present (1 year 6 months)

Secured significant contracts from blue chip clients for S3 Group, scripting Blackduck's suite of tools to ensure Open Source Licence (and other) compliance in source code from large teams of developers in multiple companies. Pleased to find that the pedantry honed on programming questions is just as useful to legal ones. Tools: Linux, Python, Bash, Git, Gerrit, Jenkins, Jira, ... Interesting project: writing #licenses, #tags, ..., onto some Slack channels while conversing on others.

### SCM at Altobridge

2005 - December 2013 (8 years)

Helped to grow the team to 150+. I continuously integrated world-wide development teams and supported installation on a variety of platforms. We controlled release through Issue Trackers to System Test, Support and Customers, who provided mobile towers to remote lumberjacks (so we were OK). Led the team effort which achieved DO-178B certification of development processes, and contributed to the overall ISO-9000 certification efforts. I particularly enjoyed mentoring younger engineers, from internships through graduation and on to their own leadership positions. Tools: Python, Javascript, Linux, SVN, SQL, source code translation, Blackduck, Selenium. Interesting Project: Was asked to optimize a Java program, so profiled it, then adapted a Python parser to take away the syntactic sugar leaving code frames which gcc recognized as C, with some #includes. Profiled it again, re-wrote the framework, profiled again, added features.

### Co Founder at Omnify Systems Ltd

2003 - 2005 (2 years)

Built a team to adapt retail software for use in the Irish Fashion industry. Tools: Delphi (Pascal), Microsoft SQL Server, TestComplete. Interesting Project: Specification of a "tablet" for use by warehouse staff.

**Leader. at interWAVE**

1999 - 2003 (4 years)

On joining interWAVE I was responsible for transfer of the development of their OMC (Operations and Maintenance Centre) from Silicon Valley to Tralee, and then for all aspects of development in Tralee and for integration with other teams in America and China. Tools: C++, Solaris, Networking, Telecoms, Rational  
Interesting question: why does your diff engine compare text, not code?

**Co Founder at Microcellular**

1999 - 2001 (2 years)

I initially joined a startup company called Microcellular Systems, where we created a software team which developed software such as GSM subscriber management. This development team was a significant part of the reason why Microcellular was acquired by interWAVE. Enterprise Ireland helped us to attract talent from Tralee's Institute of Technology which I built into a Team of 10 strong enough to be acquired by Interwave. Interesting Project: Mapping locations of approaching GSM towers from a shed. Tools: C, C++, Tcl/Tk, GSM, Windows

**Coder at FlexTime**

1994 - 2000 (6 years)

I integrated Flextime's Windows-based system into the CSO (Central Statistics Office) VAX computers. Learned that the customer is always right, except when they think something might be "easy". Interesting Project: Unit testing for The Millennium Bug. Tools: COBOL, VMS.

**Ability Developer at National Training and Development Institute**

1995 - 1999 (4 years)

I helped differently abled people to use computers to better meet their needs. This was the toughest and most rewarding position I have undertaken. Interesting challenge: Explain Visual Basic to someone who has heard Excel Macros. Listening to a programme being read by JAWS changes one's perspective, or one cannot help.

**Teacher at Allied Computer Training**

1989 - 1994 (5 years)

Developed a 2-year City & Guilds certified Software Engineering course on an i386 running Microsoft Unix, way back, when they were still nerds.

---

**Volunteer Experience****Trainer at Centre for Talented Youth of Ireland**

September 2011 - May 2012 (9 months)

Teaching kids to develop Android apps

---

## Projects

### Open Source contributions

My Github projects and contributions are at <https://github.com/jalanb>

---

## Languages

<b>English</b>	(Full professional proficiency)
<b>German</b>	(Limited working proficiency)
<b>Irish</b>	(Elementary proficiency)

---

## Skills & Expertise

<b>Python</b>	<b>Unix Shell Scripting</b>
<b>Bash</b>	<b>CVS</b>
<b>Linux</b>	<b>Databases</b>
<b>Git</b>	<b>Team Building</b>
<b>Open Source Software</b>	<b>Server Administration</b>
<b>Parsing</b>	<b>Change Management</b>
<b>Software Configuration Management</b>	<b>Software Licensing</b>
<b>Neural Networks</b>	<b>Pascal</b>
<b>DO-178B</b>	<b>Process Automation</b>
<b>Unix</b>	<b>AJAX</b>
<b>C++</b>	<b>Technical Training</b>
<b>Software Development</b>	<b>Microsoft SQL Server</b>
<b>ISO 9001</b>	<b>SQL Server</b>
<b>Software Engineering</b>	<b>Shell</b>
<b>JavaScript</b>	<b>Problem Solving</b>
<b>Integration</b>	<b>Mac OS X</b>
<b>MySQL</b>	<b>Java</b>
<b>OS X</b>	
<b>Shell Scripting</b>	
<b>Subversion</b>	
<b>Testing</b>	
<b>HTML</b>	
<b>SQL</b>	
<b>Test Automation</b>	

## Publications

### **Borland C++ Builder 6 Developer's Guide**

Sams December 30, 2002

Authors: J Alan Brogan, Jarrod Hollingworth, Bob Swart, Mark Cashman, Paul Gustavson

This book was created to fill the gaps in several areas of programming with C++Builder, and to provide content on many of the new features in C++Builder 5. It is aimed mostly at intermediate and advanced programmers, though several beginner chapters are included and many chapters contain lead-in information to get you up to speed. In total there are over 1750 pages of raw content!

### **A Python version of Hofstadter's Copycat algorithm**

Authors: J Alan Brogan

Translation to Python of a Java implementation, with help from the Lisp in "Analogy Making as Perception" by Melanie Mitchell (a colleague of Douglas Hofstadter).

---

## Education

### **Institute of Technology, Tralee**

BSc, Computer Science, 2003 - 2004

Grade: Honours, First Class

### **Dublin City University**

BSc, Computer Science, 1989 - 1992

Grade: Honours in all exams (but moved to Kerry before completion)

### **University College Dublin**

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (M.B.B.S.), Medicine, 1979 - 1984

Grade: Honours in all exams, but left for patients' benefit



## J Alan Brogan

<https://ie.linkedin.com/in/algotrhythm>

### Colleagues have recommended Alan

"A fantastic boss; inspires great enthusiasm and sets a high standard. Alan really loves what he does, and is a great mentor and organiser for colleagues..."

— **Laurence Dusoswa**, *Junior Developer, Altobridge*, reported to Alan at Altobridge

"Alan was very motivating in his role and encouraging to anyone that worked with him. He was always helpful and a great mentor. He was very enthusiastic in his role and a pleasure to work with and for."

— **Maeve Nolan**, *Software Manager, Alvarion*, reported to Alan at interWAVE



### A random redditor has recommended Alan's code

Impressive, not only for the thinking of the idea but there's something I love about how simple it is and it's bash

I love witty code snippets

— **/u/andru183**, *Redditor*, commented on Alan's code at [/r/commandline/](#)