title: Resume published: 2000-01-01 revised: 2015-12-10 tag: noindex

# John Mee

Senior **Software Engineer** currently proficient with Python; more than five years experience building APIs and websites with flask and django, amid esoteric projects. Full Stack competency from requirements to deployment and considerable experience with startups.

*Core*

* 5+ years Python experience, with Django and flask, and substantial experience creating APIs
* 10+ years experience with back-end development, web and traditional software engineering
* Experienced with modern responsive site development and front-end workflows (HTML, CSS, SASS, LESS, Bootstrap, Foundation)
* Experienced with modern javascript tools and pipes (jquery, nodejs, gulpjs, grunt, backbonejs, angularjs)
* Excellent and thorough requirements gathering, analysis, and system design
* Ability to make cautious estimates and achieve them; identifies critical issues early and neutralises them
* Excellent database analysis and design skills (postgresql, mysql)
* 10+ years \*NIX administration experience (debian, ubuntu, redhat, solaris, OS X)
* Experienced with cloud services (Amazon AWS, Heroku, Cloudflare)
* Excellent English communication and teamwork skills
* Ability to work autonomously and collaborate with creative and technical colleagues

*Supplemental*

* Experienced with mentoring junior programmers; assigning and reviewing coding tasks
* Experienced with minor PHP and Ruby tasks
* A positive profile in the developer community; active on StackOverflow, Github, a technical blog, and occasional attendee at SyPy meets
* Familiar with popular tools: Redis, memcached, MQ, puppet/salt/chef/ansible, etc
* Excellent understanding of Git
* Wealth of experience in startup environments

## Qualifications and Awards

#### Bachelor of Applied Science (Computing)

University of Technology, Sydney, Australia  
[B.App.Sc (Computing)](http://www.uts.edu.au/future-students/find-a-course/courses/c10345)  
With Distinction for:

* Programming Principles
* Technical and Professional Communication
* Computer Graphics

#### Master of Information Technology (Web Technologies)

Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia  
[M.I.T. (Web Technologies)](http://courses.mq.edu.au/postgraduate/master/master-of-information-technology)  
With High Distinction for:

* Database Application Programming
* Computer Networks
* XML Technologies
* Distributed Systems

#### Webby Awards Honoree

[15th Annual Webby Awards Honoree (2011)](http://webbyawards.com/winners/2011/web/general-website/religion-spirituality/fervr/)  
<http://fervr.net>

“John was a thoroughly enjoyable fellow to work with and an invaluable source of skill and knowledge. He vigorously works his way to the core of each task, thus ensuring a well thought out and efficient solution. His many years of experience are obvious in what is the most beautiful and readable code I have ever seen. I hope to work with him again in the future.” *Daniel Bradley - Staff Programmer - Copyright Agency Limited*

John

John

## Personal

Born in Sydney and enjoys a bachelor’s life in Manly—NSW Australia.

Struggles to spend time away from keyboards, so when that does happen it is, ideally, a physical exercise; surfing [Fairy Bower](https://goo.gl/maps/NvQMemQ1GjL2) is the #1 choice or, when the swell is not running, a ride on the bike— [push](https://goo.gl/maps/jf9yE93Tokt) or [power](https://goo.gl/maps/LMswsXVCMGz)— will do. Running on the spot at the gym is a distant third. Enjoys a good read, good company, a [franziskaner](https://www.franziskaner-weissbier.de/unsere-biere/hefe-weissbier-naturtrueb), a strategy game, one particular girl, a lamb roast, and [believes](http://anglicansonline.org/basics/nicene.html) in the existence of God. Has mastered the artistry of a [La Pavoni Lever](http://www.lapavoni.com/domestic-line.php?idcategory=1).

Github: <https://github.com/johnmee>  
Personal Domain: <http://johnmee.com>  
Email Address: [resume@johnmee.com](mailto:resume@johnmee.com)  
Phone Number: [0403 998 333](tel:0403-998-333)

# Career Snapshot

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Caradvice - Bestprice | May 2013 - | Python/Django |
| Private Individual (Evolutionary Programming) | Apr - Aug 2015 | Python/DEAP |
| Copyright Agency | Feb - April 2013 | Python |
| Private Individual (Stock Backtesting) | July 2012 - July 2013 | Python/Multiprocessing/Amazon AWS |
| BigNewsNetwork | 2012 | Python/Scrapyd |
| Dolby Laboratories | Feb - Oct 2011 | Python/Django/PHP |
| Youthworks | Feb 2009 - Feb 2011 | Python/Django |
| Workstar | Aug 2008 - Feb 2009 | ColdFusion |
| Genworth | Jan 2007 - Dec 2007 | ColdFusion/Java/XSLT |
| Perpetual Trustees | Sep 2006 - Jan 2007 | C#.NET/XSLT |
| RecruitAdvantage | Feb 2006 - Aug 2006 | Coldfusion |
| Carlson Marketing | Nov 2004 - Dec 2005 | Coldfusion |
| Sydney Sewing Supplies | Jul Oct 2004 | C#.NET/XSLT |
| Salmat | Oct 2002 - Jan 2003 | Coldfusion |
| Roads and Traffic Authority | Aug 2001 - Oct 2002 | Coldfusion, Perl |
| Good Business Technology | Apr - Jul 2001 | Coldfusion |
| Vertical Markets | Sep 2000 - Mar 2001 | Coldfusion |
| Daemon Consulting | Jun - Sep 2000 | Coldfusion |
| The Intermedia Group | Apr - Jun 2000 | Coldfusion |
| Leonard Communications | Sep - Dec 1999 | Coldfusion |
| AMPOL | Jan 1991 - Oct 1992 | C/*Nix Roads and Traffic Authority | Jan - Dec 1989 | Fortran/*Nix |

## Job History

### FindBigMail

This longstanding hobby project gets a steady stream of donations and occasional accolades. It finds and tags the biggest emails in your gmail account making it easy to stay under the size restraints of a free gmail account. Driven by Google’s mandatory upgrade to Oauth2 it was completely rewritten in 2014, from imap via PHP on bare metal, to GmailAPI via Python on heroku.

Responsibilities are everything from concept, to implementation, to maintenance; user support is handled by a sibling.

* overcomes significant challenges with the throttling of access to the Gmail API
* leverages Redis for queuing jobs, storing reports, and ensuring it *forgets* everything
* successfully scales up and down to accommodate occasional [slashdot effects](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slashdot_effect)
* invokes a loosely coupled design to mitigate Google’s periodic policy and implementation shafts
* took the hard decision, after much investment, to abandon the first rebuild attempt with google appengine; just too many issues and not enough support. Heroku proves to be a superior platform.

[FindBigMail](https://findbigmail.com) July 2013 →  
[Python](https://www.python.org/) ([Flask](http://flask.pocoo.org), [GmailAPI](https://developers.google.com/gmail/api/?hl=en)), [Redis](http://redis.io/), [Heroku](https://www.heroku.com/)

#### Freelance - Evolutionary Programming

Accepted an offer from a private individual to do the programming component of an IT Thesis on Evolutionary Programming: a program which builds a program (sic), with the ultimate goal of constructing a 3D model from a collection of 2D photographs.

* learnt what evolutionary programming is and soaked up all the established literature and concepts about it
* exchanged complex concepts with the client and created project plans, milestones, and delivery mechanisms
* implemented significant customizations to [DEAP](http://deap.readthedocs.org/en/master/); (effectively pushing it as far as it could go short of rewriting their core engine)
* prepared and presented regular interactive demonstrations via a [Python Notebook](http://ipython.org/notebook.html), fully documenting and explaining each step, and delivering working models at the conceptual level the client required
* presented technical obstacles in understandable ways; devised solutions and laid them out with all the critical variables necessary for informed decisions

[Python](https://www.python.org/) ([DEAP](http://deap.readthedocs.org/en/master/))  
[Source Code](https://github.com/johnmee/nigel)

Caradvice

Caradvice

### Caradvice

[BestPrice](https://bestprice.com.au) was a startup delivering a marketplace of new car buyers to car dealers:

* took full technical responsiblity for the Python/Django/Backbonejs website
* fix bugs and provide 2nd technical support to internal staff
* estimate and deliver new features to time and budget
* provide detailed site usage reports to business management and sales staff
* advise and deliver major pivots to the business model and operating structure
* oversee final transition to straightforward lead generator
* supervised a junior programmer, worked well with web designer, customer support, adops/sales staff, and business stakeholders

[Caradvice](http://caradvice.com.au) was a startup, but now better described as an established online motoring magazine:

* significantly improved the overall uptime and stability, and reduced staff labor and stress levels, of CarAdvice proper by putting together constant monitoring and restart systems with [Munin](http://munin-monitoring.org/), [Monit](https://mmonit.com/monit/), and [Pingdom](https://www.pingdom.com/)
* evaluated devops systems [ansible](http://www.ansible.com/), [puppet](https://puppetlabs.com/), and [chef](https://www.chef.io/) for application to their systems (unsuitable)
* provided [bus factor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bus_factor) support for that site (PHP, DNS, AmazonAWS, cloudflare, etc)

Still in contact, and perform the monthly site updates plus essential maintenance tasks, as required.

[Python](https://www.python.org/), [Django](https://www.djangoproject.com/), [MySQL](https://www.mysql.com/), [Backbone.js](http://backbonejs.org/), [Angular.js](https://angularjs.org/), [Git](https://git-scm.com/), [Bootstrap](http://getbootstrap.com/), [Ubuntu](http://www.ubuntu.com/)

### Copyright Agency Limited

A quick gig supporting a python application whilst an inhouse dev took a vacation. Proved useful enough to be kept around some weeks longer building scripting tasks to ease the workload of filtering, cataloging, and processing the masses of scanned documents their business entails.

[Copyright Agency](http://copyright.com.au) February → April 2013  
[Python](https://www.python.org/)

### Freelancing

Linz Backtesting

Linz Backtesting

#### Stock Backtesting

Constructed a system to leverage Amazon AWS to do backtesting, by brute force, of a trading idea for an entrepreneurial gentleman; basically looking for strong correlations. Involved lots of multiprocessing and wrangling the vast data output into meaningful reports. We gave it a good go but, ultimately, failed to find a gap in the market that could be exploited practically.

[Gary Linz](http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/guns-for-hire/story-e6frgafx-1111112972687) July 2012 → July 2013  
[Python](https://www.python.org/), [AmazonAWS](https://aws.amazon.com/)

#### Web Crawler

Consulting and development on a crawling system pulling news stories from ~4000 websites and RSS feeds and feeding them into a news context aggregation system for vertical markets which was grinding itself to death. Found, learnt, and implemented [Scrapy](http://scrapy.org/) to replace the fragile bespoke PHP code.

[BigNewsNetwork](http://www.bignewsnetwork.com) On and Off thru 2012  
[Python](https://www.python.org/) ([Scrapy](http://scrapy.org/)), [MySQL](https://www.mysql.com/), [Ubuntu](http://www.ubuntu.com/)

#### CMS and Workflow App

Support and enhancement of bespoke app to guide junior marketing execs through a structured process to create a high quality marketing plan; essentially a weighty question and answer workflow which compiles all the answers into a Word document.

[BrayMediaInternational](http://braymediainternational.com/) On and Off thru 2012  
[Python](https://www.python.org/) ([Django](https://www.djangoproject.com/)), [MySQL](https://www.mysql.com/), [Ubuntu](http://www.ubuntu.com/)

Dolby

Dolby

### Dolby Laboratories

Dolby needed a Pythonista to support and rebuild an API, included in the VOIP solution of a recent aquisition, ready for re-release as their [business voice communications and conferencing](http://www.dolby.com/us/en/technologies/dolby-voice.html) system:

* assumed sole technical resposiblity for the API component of the system, providing authorization and room tokens to client programs connecting and connected to the system
* re-architeched and re-implemented the existing *quick hack* solution into a solid, elegant, for-the-future codebase affording management considerable confidence in reliability, security, and ability to scale
* added new features, eg. the concept of *seats*, including fixed and variable numbers of them, and assignment of specific individuals to specific seats.
* worked with formal Quality Assurance testing for load and regression
* also maintained a PHP website for the [Dolby Axon](https://axon.dolby.com/) product, changing the payment model, appling new skins, and making other improvements to the registration system

[Dolby Laboratories](http://dolby.com): February 2011 → October 2011  
[Python](https://www.python.org/), [Django](https://www.djangoproject.com/), [MySQL](https://www.mysql.com/), [Perforce](https://www.perforce.com/), [PHP](http://php.net), [Debian](https://www.debian.org/)

fervr

fervr

### Youthworks

[fervr](http://fervr.net) was a facebook alternative for christian youth groups in Australia provided by the Sydney Anglican Diocese. Nationally it implemented a publishing platform of magazine-style content for adolescents, whilst locally it implemented *cells* of youth members aged 8-18 years, providing group home pages, group chats, group photo sharing, and event sharing with significant oversight and child protection measures.

* assumed sole technical resposiblity for backend development and deployment
* implemented all of the aforementioned features (publishing, chat, signup, photos, events, etc)
* worked with a Systems administrator for operations and a frontend designer for presentation
* worked with marketing for direction, promotion, and reporting
* received recognition from webbyawards
* added an online store for digital and physical products via [Shopify](https://www.shopify.com.au/) and [eWay](https://www.eway.com.au/)

LOUDEvent

LOUDEvent

Also built several *one-off* event ticketing sites to take event bookings and handle the money:

* autonomously architect, develop, deploy, and operate the complete ticketing solutions
* implement features for early-bird specials, door-sales, ticket confirmation, accounting reports and more
* successfully pull off the [LOUDEvent](https://www.facebook.com/pages/LOUD-Event/151410097015) at the Sydney Entertainment Centre (~20,000 tix) and several [RICE](http://www.ricemovement.org/) events

[Youthworks](https://www.youthworks.net/) February 2009 → February 2011  
Source code for [fervr](https://bitbucket.org/fervr/fervr), [Rice](https://bitbucket.org/fervr/rice/)  
[Python](https://www.python.org/), [Django](https://www.djangoproject.com/), [Postgres](http://www.postgresql.org/), [Ubuntu](http://www.ubuntu.com/), [Mercurial](https://www.mercurial-scm.org/), [BusinessCatalyst](http://businesscatalyst.com/), [Shopify](https://www.shopify.com.au/)

Workstar

Workstar

### Workstar

Built an intranet application, for a Brisbane road construction company, to conduct employee performance reviews; set goals and review them periodically. Managers and employees complete their feedback separately, then come together to reveal and discuss past and future goals and performance measures.

[Workstar](http://www.workstar.com.au/): August 2008 → February 2009  
[Coldfusion](http://www.adobe.com/au/products/coldfusion-family.html), [jQuery](https://jquery.com/), javascript, HTML, CSS, [SQLServer](http://www.microsoft.com/en-au/server-cloud/products/sql-server/default.aspx)

### Freelance

Built a windows (C#) app to import a spreadsheet of item details and programmatically post them to eBay via their API.

Visual Studio, [C#](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/kx37x362.aspx), [ebay API](https://go.developer.ebay.com/api-documentation)

Genworth

Genworth

### Genworth Mortgage Insurance

Participated in *ValCentral*, a ten man, twelve month project to deliver online real estate property valuations for Lenders Mortgage Insurance; essentially an inhouse startup.

Delivered expert knowledge converting the pilot project from Coldfusion to Java; documented and rewrote core features from Coldfusion into Java/Spring/Hibernate. Provided architectural foresight to discovered technical challenges.

Built a two-way data tranformation process to import incoming industry standard [LIXI documents](https://lixi.org.au/) into the application data format and also the reverse process delivering LIXI documents via a public facing Webservices SOAP API.

[Genworth](http://www.genworth.com.au/): January 2007 → December 2007  
[Coldfusion](http://www.adobe.com/au/products/coldfusion-family.html), Java, [Spring](http://spring.io/), [Hibernate](http://hibernate.org/), [XSLT](http://www.w3.org/TR/xslt20/), XML, [Mule](https://www.mulesoft.com/resources/esb/what-mule-esb), [sqlserver](http://www.microsoft.com/en-au/server-cloud/products/sql-server/default.aspx), [Oracle](http://www.oracle.com/au/database/overview/index.html)

### Perpetual Trustees

Assisted in a massive data transformation/migration project to get all their client data off three legacy systems onto a shiny new one. Involved a complex process of abstracting data from each application model into common form then reshaping it to fit the new data model. And process ~30GB of it between COB friday and Monday morning!

[Perpetual Trustees](https://www.perpetual.com.au/)/[GlobalSoft](http://www.globalsoft.com) September 2006 → January 2007  
[XSLT](http://www.w3.org/TR/xslt20/), XML, [C#](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/kx37x362.aspx), [Sybase](http://www.sap.com/pc/tech/database/software/adaptive-server-enterprise/index.html), [sqlserver](http://www.microsoft.com/en-au/server-cloud/products/sql-server/default.aspx), [XMLSpy](http://www.altova.com/xmlspy.html)

### RecruitAdvantage

Consulted on software engineering issues, leading to the introduction of fundamental tools: source control, issue tracking, technical documentation, and push button deployment, thus wrangling some 20Gb of haphazard code and data strewn over ten production servers, thus initiating processes for quality improvement. Educated and championed these tools to a self-taught development team.

[RecruitAdvantage](http://www.turborecruit.com.au/) February 2006 → August 2006  
[Subversion](https://subversion.apache.org/), [Trac](http://trac.edgewall.org/), [Coldfusion](http://www.adobe.com/au/products/coldfusion-family.html), [SQLServer](http://www.microsoft.com/en-au/server-cloud/products/sql-server/default.aspx), VB.Net

Caradvice

Caradvice

### Carlson Marketing

Maintained the Commonwealth Bank Awards website enabling loyalty customers to monitor their points and redeem for prizes. Involved the publishing of monthly marketing content. Completed a comprehensive security audit. Was experience with a very high traffic site and involved a lot of Quality Assurance Testing and meticulate construction of roll-forward and roll-back scripts with each release.

[Carlson Marketing Group](http://www.aimia.com/): November 2004 → December 2005  
[Coldfusion](http://www.adobe.com/au/products/coldfusion-family.html), [SQLServer](http://www.microsoft.com/en-au/server-cloud/products/sql-server/default.aspx), bash, [Solaris](https://www.oracle.com/solaris/solaris11/index.html), HTML, CSS, Javascript

### Freelance

#### Illustrated Price Catalogue

* created a system that assembled a freshly minted and illustrated price catalogue on demand using current pricing data directly from the database, saving untold printing expenses
* built a windows application which retailers could use to import catalogue and pricing updates to their Point-of-Sale systems which were distributed by email; in such a way that they still had complete control over their own catalogues.

[Sydney Sewing Supplies](http://sewingcraft.com/) July 2004 → October 2004  
[C#](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/kx37x362.aspx), [sqlserver](http://www.microsoft.com/en-au/server-cloud/products/sql-server/default.aspx), XML, [XSLT](http://www.w3.org/TR/xslt20/), [XSLT-FOP](https://xmlgraphics.apache.org/fop/), [Dataflex](http://www.dataaccess.com/products.asp?pageid=1829), [Slackware](http://www.slackware.com/)

#### Sales Pipeline intranet app

Created an intranet application for the sales manager to help his team track the progress of business leads, tenders, and bids as they worked their way through the sales cycle. Provided graphic reports and required a User Experience good enough for sales folk to actually use it.

[Salmat Australia](http://www.salmat.com.au) October 2002 → January 2003  
[Coldfusion](http://www.adobe.com/au/products/coldfusion-family.html), [Oracle](http://www.oracle.com/au/database/overview/index.html), [Solaris](https://www.oracle.com/solaris/solaris11/index.html)

RTA M5EAST

RTA M5EAST

### Roads and Traffic Authority

Built an Overtime Management intranet application enabling managers to tame overtime expenditure through an authorisation process.

Built a system to capture and publish live and historical air quality data from the M5 air filtration stacks, as well as fulfil legal requirements to notify independent parties immediately an exceedence occurs; [work which is still in use over a decade later](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/sydney-south/m5-east/outside-air-quality-monitoring/index.html).

[Roads and Traffic Authority](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/) August 2001 → October 2002  
[Perl](https://www.perl.org/), [Coldfusion](http://www.adobe.com/au/products/coldfusion-family.html), [Oracle](http://www.oracle.com/au/database/overview/index.html), [Debian](https://www.debian.org/), [Solaris](https://www.oracle.com/solaris/solaris11/index.html), HTML, CSS, Javascript

### Freelance

Stepped in halfway and helped this four-man team to complete and deliver a web based front-end for [Vodafone](http://www.vodafone.com.au)’s implementation of the Mobile Number Portability project.

Stayed on briefly for some additional work for another client of theirs, *Swich*, building a daily report of ATM transactions for their clients who owned ATM machines which they managed.

[Good Business Technology] April 2001 → July 2001  
[Coldfusion](http://www.adobe.com/au/products/coldfusion-family.html), [Oracle](http://www.oracle.com/au/database/overview/index.html)

### Vertical Markets

Worked as part of a team converting an inhouse CMS into an online magazine publishing system for this seed-funded ‘ebusiness portal’ startup which, initially, was focused on the pharmaceuticals and medical industries. Also worked on a workflow system for the booking of training days and courses for client Raytheon.

[Vertical Markets](#vertical-markets) September 2000 → March 2001  
Coldfusion and Spectra with Oracle and MS SQLServer, HTML

### Daemon Consulting

A stint with this highly regarded web consultancy involved working on some big clients: trouble shooting at TechPacific production application issues, finished off the ICAC website, sorted out the inhouse backup scripts, and particpated in an Agricultural Logistics startup attempt.

[Daemon Web Development](http://www.daemon.com.au/) June → September 2000  
[Coldfusion](http://www.adobe.com/au/products/coldfusion-family.html) ([Spectra]), [SQLServer](http://www.microsoft.com/en-au/server-cloud/products/sql-server/default.aspx), HTML

### The Intermedia Group

Purchased their first hardware and built the network for a seed-funded startup building a marketplace for giftwares (like [Etsy](http://etsy.com/) is today).

[Intermedia](http://intermedia.com.au/) April → June 2000  
[Coldfusion](http://www.adobe.com/au/products/coldfusion-family.html), [SQLServer](http://www.microsoft.com/en-au/server-cloud/products/sql-server/default.aspx), HTML

### Leonard Communications

Built an index of private schools across Australia and published it at http://www.privateschoolsaustralia.com.au

[Leonard Communications](http://www.leonards.net.au) September → December 1999  
[Coldfusion](http://www.adobe.com/au/products/coldfusion-family.html), MS Access, HTML

“John would be an asset to any organisation.”  
 *Russell Ayling - Technical Manager - Roads and Traffic Authority*