

Meads Chalcroft

GitHub version of CV: <https://github.com/meads58/CV>

LinkedIn: [Meads Chalcroft](#)

A Junior Web Developer pursuing a successful career in software engineering after a past life as a software tester.

The perfect role would push for innovation, continuous learning and teamwork alongside smart, fun people who enjoy their job. Must be within a company that backs their employees to deliver outstanding solutions.

Skills for the job

Web Developer

A fast learner of new technologies who thoroughly enjoys being challenged.

- Ruby on Rails:
 - Fullstack developer at Zopa implementing a Rails web app in Ruby, Postgres, CSS/HTML, Docker, Git and Redis/Sidekiq.
- C#.net and Javascript experience on smaller projects.
- Testing and TDD:
 - Exceptional attention to detail from 9 years of Software Testing in the construction of test scenarios. Coding example with Rspec tests [best-rate loan matcher](#)
 - Strong TDD culture at Zopa and used Rspec and BDD with Capybara for testing.
- DevOps:
 - Implemented Docker containers for the deployment of the Debt Collection application at Zopa.
 - Working deployment solutions using Docker, Vagrant, Puppet, Octopus, Jenkins and Artifactory tools. This will allow for a quick spin up of identical environments on any machine and the removal of bottlenecks in the current deployment process.

Communication

Excellent, clear and concise communication skills.

- Pair programming:
 - Used at Zopa to quickly build up knowledge of the system code base and for reviewing code which successfully speeded up the release process.
- Business and Developer communication:
 - Excellent skills at bridging the communication gap between business and technical audiences from the years spent as a tester liaising between developers and business users.
- Question asking:
 - Not afraid to ask for clarification early on, which ensures focus is set to solve the correct problems.

Problem Solving

Breaking down problems into manageable chunks, attention to detail and designing solutions that integrate well.

- Define the problem:
 - Define the problem, break it down and look for any potential issues downstream. An example at Zopa was the creation of a process flow diagram for the new debt collection application. This served as the delivery road map clearly showing upstream and downstream dependencies for each step which was expanded out and coded for.
- Innovation:
 - Looking to improve/refactor code for a genuine benefit. Example at Zopa with an opportunity to add needed flexibility of the 'on hold' feature. Instead of a solution to pause the Sidekiq queue, the queue time was made adjustable. This gave the users added flexibility for individual cases and also allowed them to simulate a full work flow in UAT.
- Planning and Design:
 - The [Battleship project](#) shows how the single responsibility principle was used to design the system. Achieved a clear understanding of building applications up from small manageable chunks to solve a specific problem led to making, maintaining and adding features easier.

Coding Examples

Proximibee	Rock Paper Scissors	Instagram Clone	Lizard King
Final project setting up a Beacon network for personalised shopping.	Thoroughly tested rock, paper, scissors game written in Ruby and Sinatra web framework.	Weekend challenge to build an instagram clone in Rails.	A really fun team hakerthon challenge using Express.js and Angular.js that ranks the funniest gif or image.

Education

Makers Academy February cohort 2015

- Independent learner and problem-solver.
- OOP, TDD, MVC.
- Software Engineering.
- Git, Ruby, Rails, Javascript, HTML, CSS, Node.js, Express.js, Angular.js.
- Rspec, Jasmine, Capybara, Protractor, Cucumber.
- Final project: [Proximibee](#). Beacon network for customisable shopping from your phone.

Otago University - 1998 to 2002

- BSc Information Science
- BCom Management

Experience

- **Zopa**, July 2015 - present, Web Developer.
 - Web developer working on both the front and back end to turn the current debt collection process into an online web application. Also picking up DevOps projects to standardise deployments with Docker containers, Vagrant and Artifactory tools.
- **Barings Asset Management**, March 2014 - February 2015, System Test Analyst.

- End to end testing of their financial systems. Worked directly with Business Analysts and Developers providing a quick feedback loop for the test status of new features and bug fixes.
- **Barclays Bank**, July 2013 - December 2013, Analyst - Contractor.
 - Data analytics writing SQL queries to track sanctioned payments as part of the anti-terrorism program.
- **Trafigura Ltd**, March 2007 – March 2013, System Tester.
 - Hugely successful time working in agile teams on their commodity trading systems to plan, write and execute tests for each upcoming sprint.
- Further work history on request.

Interests

- An extreme sport fanatic and family guy who is very excited and focused to become an outstanding software engineer.
- Kitesurfing, snowboarding, surfing and more kitesurfing.
- All things techie, reading and watching clips about what is happening in this area.
- Photography and travelling.