Josef van Niekerk

Full Stack Software Engineer

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| **A picture containing drawing  Description automatically generated** [LinkedIn.com/in/josefniekerk](file:///C:\Users\jvniekerk\Desktop\jobs\cvs\LinkedIn.com\in\josefniekerk) |  | [github.com/safrique](file:///C:\Users\jvniekerk\Desktop\jobs\cvs\github.com\safrique) |

Summary

I have a decade’s worth of experience as a software engineering, data analysis & relationship management professional in financial services. This includes 5 years’ software development, project management, system design & team management experience, and more than 8 years’ analytics & business intelligence experience.

I am passionate about solving problems and making improvements, especially in business process efficiency. Adding value, acquiring new information and constantly expanding my skillset are some of my main objectives.

Skills

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| **Software Development**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | PHP (5/7) | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | | HTML5 | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | | Microsoft Visual Basic .Net | ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ | | JavaScript (ES06) | ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ | | Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) | ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ | | Cascading Style Sheets (CSS3) | ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ | | **Frameworks**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Vue.js (Vue Router & VueX) | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | | Laravel | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | | jQuery | ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ | | Bootstrap | ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ | | Element.io | ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ | | Bulma | ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ | |
| **Platforms**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Git (Bitbucket & GitHub) | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | | Jira | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | | Docker | ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ | | Microsoft PowerBI | ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ | | WordPress | ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ | | Webpack | ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ | | Babel | ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ | | AWS | ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ | | Linux | ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ | | HubSpot | ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ | | Yotpo | ★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ | | Vagrant | ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | | **Testing Frameworks**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | PHPUnit testing | ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ | | Jest JavaScript testing | ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ |   **Methodologies**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | SCRUM | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | | Agile | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | | Dependency Injection | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | | Object Oriented Programming (OOP) | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | | Model-View-Controller (MVC) | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | | SOLID Principles | ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ | |
| **Database**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Microsoft SQL Server & T-SQL | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | | MySQL (5.7/8) | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | | Microsoft Access | ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ | | **Languages**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **English** | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | | **Afrikaans** | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | |

Recent Projects

**Software Engineering**

* Designed & built a **VB.Net & SQL Server** **integration** between the external CRM & automated dialler.
* UB built a new CRM in-house using **Laravel PHP**, **Vue.js JavaScript** & **MySQL** to replace the 3rd party CRM. I helped design and build a significant part of the business logic & calculations and user interface.
* Designed & built multiple public & private pages on the **WordPress** website to extend 3rd party CRM functionality. I also drove the change from procedural PHP to **OOP** on the WordPress website.
* Completed several projects under strict deadlines to improve affordability checking, including automated salary verification using **AWS Textract** AI based document reading and data validation.
* Designed & built several **automated processes** and applications using **Visual Basic .Net** & **SQL Server**, giving the business access to additional functionality and data, e.g. automated email responding, Credit Reference Agency reciprocal data exchanges and Data Subject Access Request processes.

**Analytics**

* Designed & built company reporting & BI suite using **MS PowerBI** & **macro enabled spreadsheets**.
* Created **data migration** mapping and processes for the old 3rd party CRM to the new in-house built CRM migration.
* Designed & coded **complex SQL queries** to manage CRM event triggers in an efficient way.
* Created an automated lead buying strategy process that analysed and adapted to past loan performance using **SQL Server**.

Work Experience

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| **Full Stack Software Engineer / Analytics & BI Manager**  Uncle Buck Finance LLP | **March 2014 – April 2020** |

**Started as Analytics & BI Manager, tasked with recruiting, managing, and mentoring the Analytics & Business Intelligence team, while creating software applications to improve company processes & efficiency. Switched to the newly created software development team on a full-time basis in April 2018.**

* Improved in-house built CRM system by redesigning and rebuilding a significant part of the **Vue.js** user interface and reducing backend API calls by approximately 80% by using **VueX**.
* Created and designed backend business logic & calculations for the in-house built **Laravel PHP** based CRM, eliminating the need for external assistance, saving significant resources.
* Resolved numerous process and data accessibility issues caused by the 3rd party CRM shortcomings by designing and building software tools to give the business access to data and additional functionality.
* Created integrations between different systems, which improved overall efficiency and profitability, e.g. integrating the automated phone dialler system and 3rd party CRM using **VB.Net** & **SQL Server**.
* Freed up significant human resources by automating processes such as daily Credit Reference Agency data submissions, sending statutory notices to customers and above-mentioned dialler system.
* Recruited, managed, and mentored a team of data analysts, who created processes and reporting tools, giving the business access to critical information, and improving system & database efficiency.
* Played a leading role in the strategies of both the analytics & software development project teams, liaising with a variety of stakeholders, thereby improving the quality of output from these teams.

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| **Analytics & Relationship Manager**  Money Gap Group | **Feb 2012 – Feb 2014** |

**Started at MGG as data analyst and was promoted to Analytics Manager within 6 months. Thanks to my interpersonal skills I also managed the relationships with over 50 lender clients, who were acquiring application leads from MGG.**

* Helped to increase the company turnover by over 200% by analysing lender lead acquisition and customer application behaviour & influencing lenders and MGG management on improved strategies.
* Won over a significant number of new lender clients by negotiating effectively and implementing strategies based on lender objectives.
* Improved both company analytics & lender relations functions significantly by creating formalised processes. This had a drastically positive impact on turnover and profitability.

Education

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| **University of York** | Master’s degree in Mathematical Finance (Merit) | **2010 – 2012** |
| **University of South Africa** | Bachelor of Commerce degree in Operations Research & Business Management (Distinction) | **2007 – 2009** |