

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Information

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Skills

Development: .NET

I am an established ASP.NET developer, familiar with a wide range of web development technologies including:

- HTML, XHTML, CSS, JavaScript, XML and XSLT (including the various classes in the .NET framework for manipulating XML).
- C# and VB.NET.
- .NET Framework 1.1, 2.0 and ASP.NET 3.5.
- The ASP.NET environment (including the creation of user and custom / server controls).
- Visual Studio .NET 2003 / 2005 / 2008.
- Microsoft SQL Server (including SQL Server 2005 & SQL Server Integration Services).
- NHibernate
- Experience with C# 3.0 and LINQ.

Most of the work I have done has been developing ASP.NET websites using C# as the programming language and MS SQL Server 2000 /2005 as the database. I have also done some .NET 2.0 Winforms work (mostly when developing test harnesses for various middle tier services).

I have a solid grasp of object oriented methods, and write clear, well documented, solid and secure code.

Development: Tools

As well as the IDEs mentioned above, I am used to using a wide variety of development tools including:

- NUnit and NCover for testing
- CruiseControl and NAnt for continuous integration
- Resharper and CodeRush! as refactoring aids.
- Source control systems such as Visual Source Safe, Subversion & Perforce.

Development: Techniques

- Object orientation including Design Patterns (GOF, Fowler, etc.)
- Test Driven Development. I have a strong preference for this form of development – I believe it results in faster development, and better code.
- Agile Methodologies, especially scrum, but with some elements of Extreme Programming too.

Other Computing Skills

- I have a good knowledge of Linux systems administration, and have maintained a variety of internet applications using a number of different Linux distributions.
- I have a sound and demonstrable grasp of the principles behind network and application security, and have experience in both hardening installations for use as web and application servers, and of auditing the security of systems, using both automated and manual techniques.

Network & Internet

- In-depth knowledge of TCP/IP. I am able to configure and administer DHCP and DNS on both Windows and Unix based systems, and have a working knowledge of network devices such as routers, switches and hubs.
- I have configured web servers on both Windows platforms (using IIS) and on Linux (using Apache).

Summary of Certifications

While I am not convinced that certifications are the best way to assess the knowledge of an engineer or developer, I am aware that they are sometimes required by employers. For this reason I have obtained, through self-study rather than taking courses, the following certifications

- Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer + Internet (MCSE + I)
- Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)
- Checkpoint Certified Security Administrator (CCSA)

Recent Employment History

October 2007 – December 2008

Senior .NET Developer with the investment bank BNP Paribas.

Here I worked in a small team (four developers and three business analysts) on a first-tier client onboarding application. The job included making many enhancements to the application (for example, to bring it into line with the new MiFID regulations), and adding other functionality requested by the users of the application who were based all over the world. The application uses ASP.NET, and a number of Windows Services. These were all written in C#, using SQL Server 2005 for the database. Amongst the projects I was involved in, was preparing the way for a migration from the O/R mapper being used (Neo) to NHibernate.

May 2007 – October 2007

Senior .NET Developer with a Brit Insurance.

In this role I have worked on several small projects which were intended to provide significant business benefits for relatively low cost. Most of these projects were ASP.NET applications, one was a Winforms application and one a Windows Service. All used the .NET 2.0 framework, and SQL Server 2005 databases. Some of the applications were reporting tools, which involved using SSIS to extract policy data from various larger systems – this data was then queried in various ways, the resulting reports being displayed as HTML or exported in Excel format.

January 2006 – May 2007

.NET Developer with Beazley Group plc (<http://www.beazley.com/>)

For my first nine months with Beazley, I worked in a team developing ASP.NET applications for Insurance Underwriting. This was an n-tier application, written in C#. I worked on many aspects of the application – including the web pages themselves, the business layer beneath that, and the data access layer (which used Microsoft SQL Server 2005).

When this work was complete, I moved to a team providing core business applications, which would be used by the Beazley's many internal underwriting systems. A particular problem the business faced was the reliable, automatic generation and emailing of documents from templates and data, in a number of formats. Our team worked to produce a resilient solution to this problem – a windows service which could perform all of the document generation currently required, and which could be extended easily in the future. For this project we used a test driven approach, and an agile methodology (Scrum, with some elements of XP).

September 2005-December 2005

ASP.NET developer with Littlewoods Shop Direct Group (<http://lwsdg.co.uk/>).

Littlewoods Shop Direct has a number of websites associated with their home shopping catalogue brands. They are currently involved in a project to migrate these websites to a common ASP.NET-based platform. I was employed to add a number of features, and to migrate one of their existing sites to the new platform. I also added functionality to the checkout section of one of their other sites. The role involved a broad range of skills and technologies including, amongst others, rewriting a number of custom controls, and using XSLT to format product data.

March 2004 – September 2005

ASP.NET Developer with Lynx Internet Solutions (<http://www.lynxinternet.com/>).

This company has an e-commerce application (called Evolve) that is used by a fairly large customer base. The application was originally written in ASP, and has been converted (fairly crudely) to ASP.NET by an outsourcing company.

I worked on adding a number of modules to the application. The forms are mostly for the back end of the application – they allow the store owner to update their product catalogue and to modify the way products are displayed on the website. A typical form would use a datagrid to display a list of orders, or products to the website owner, who could then select a row and click a button to edit that item.

As well as adding features to the product, as the only member of the team with object orientation experience, I had a role in cleaning up the design of the application – creating an object model to sit between the database and UI layer, speeding up development while improving security and reducing the number of hard to trace bugs. I also created a number of user and custom controls allowing new forms to be created very quickly, without having to solve the same problems over and over again.

As part of a drive to improve performance (particularly in the parts of the application dealing with reporting), and to decouple the UI from the business logic, I moved a lot of SQL queries out of the code-behind and into stored procedures, and I put in place triggers where appropriate to enforce constraints, so that errors in the UI code were less likely to corrupt the database.

I also wrote an installation program module to allow customers to install and host Evolve on their own

servers (at the moment, the majority host their sites with Lynx).

May 2001 – March 2004

Developer / Consultant With Compucore Ltd (no longer trading).

As the main technical specialist with this small consultancy and services firm I had a number of roles.

In my first year I was involved in designing and setting up a Windows 2000 / Active directory based LAN for our main customer (a company in the General Motors Group which was setting up operations in the UK). There was a large mobile sales team, and so I implemented a secure remote access solution (using RSA's SecurID system) so the sales people could connect to the network while travelling. Once the LAN was up and running, technical problems that couldn't be handled by first line support engineer on site were escalated to me.

I also assisted in a number of deployment projects - packaging service packs and security updates with SMS Installer, and using various scripting techniques to push the packages out to workstations at our customers' sites (the main customer for this work was Vauxhall Motors).

After my first year, our main customer was City & Guilds. I worked with the e-learning department helping to implement a web based e-testing system. I was heavily involved in integrating the web based system (ASP.NET with SQL Server back end) with City & Guilds' legacy database systems.

May 1999 – April 2001

Team Leader / Server Specialist with Compaq at Vauxhall Motors – NT 4 migration.

I was involved in designing the automated NT 4.0 Server build which was then deployed to most of the domain, application and file servers in Vauxhall UK as part of a large multi-site. I used Perl, NT batch scripting and SMS installer to automate the installation of numerous applications, and I also designed the logon script to be used by the five thousand desktop PC users in the organisation.

Formal Education

September 1981 - June 1988

I went to school at *Cross Hall High School*, Ormskirk, Lancashire, gaining twelve O'levels and the following A'levels:

Chemistry (grade B), Mathematics (grade A), Physics (grade A).

October 1990 - June 1993

I studied Theology for three years at *Glasgow Bible College*, 731 Great Western Road, Glasgow, and was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Divinity with honours by the University of London.

September 1993 – May 1996

I studied at the School of Oriental and African Studies (part of the University of London) and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in Ancient Near Eastern Studies (the course centred on ancient languages, with some history and archaeology).

Present

In my spare time I am studying for a BSc with the Open University, concentrating on Mathematics and Computing.. Afterwards I hope to work towards a PhD in artificial intelligence or some related field.

Interests

My interests tend to revolve around mathematics and computing. I program a lot in my spare time – mostly in C#. I like to read, and have recently been reading a lot about cognitive neuroscience and artificial intelligence.