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James Barritt

Summary

I am a Technical Lead / Architect level candidate with a very strong background in Object-Oriented software development and methodology.

I enjoy the entire process of software engineering, particularly enabling a team to take on and solve complex requirements to produce quality product.

Methods	UML, Extreme Programming, Rational Unified Process, Design Patterns
	13 Years in software development
	JAVA – J2EE (8 years)
Areas Of Expertise	EJB, servlets, JSP, Struts, Swing , Java2D, Applets, Sockets, SAX
	XML / XSLT
	C++ : 2 years, Visual Basic : 3 years
	R (statistical analysis platform), LaTeX
Application Servers	JBoss, WebLogic, Websphere
Tools	IntelliJ, TogetherJ, ILog, ANT, CVS
Business Domains	Online Travel (Hotels), Supply Chain, Accounting, Direct Marketing, Mobile Computing, Flower Wholesalers

History

July 05 – July 07   Master Of Science Degree, Victoria University, Wellington, NZ

My MSc thesis is entitled "Simulation of movement patterns and the response of egg distributions to resource density for *Pieris rapae* (Lepidoptera) at multiple scales".

Deciding to take a break from professional life, I spent 2 years in the academic environment in New Zealand studying for a Masters degree. I developed an agent-based, spatially-explicit simulation framework in Java. We used the framework to conduct experiments concerning the movement behaviour of butterflies whilst ovipositing (laying their eggs on cabbages). I found this time incredibly rewarding, the challenges were both intellectual and technical. It was a great opportunity to become deeply involved in a particular domain. During my study I came to fully appreciate my passion for software and have developed what will hopefully be a useful scientific tool. The project involved coming to terms with a mass of technical requirements in the form of scientific models of movement. There were also significant technical challenges in the architecture of the software, managing a high complexity of parameterisation and output facilities as well as remote deployment and monitoring (via sockets) and multiple server processing. During my study I presented my work several times, including at an international conference, which was a definite benefit to my presentation skills. The final process of writing the thesis has been a valuable experience in terms of documentation and communication of complex ideas.

Feb 06 – March 06   **Solnet Solutions Ltd, Wellington, NZ**
                               Position: Part Time

Whilst perusing my studies I worked for a few months part time (2 days a week) for Solnet solutions developing an xml / xslt processing engine for their client ACC (Accident Claims and Compensation) which is a government insurance company. The project was basic but helped to pay my way. It involved Oracle and its XML facilities, some Applet deployment, and some fairly technical XSLT work. The final service was deployed as a servlet. This was an interesting experience only begin available 2 days a week which made enhanced the need to provide a fully functional, clearly documented piece of work.

Oct 04 – June 05   **Opodo Ltd, Hammersmith Embankment, London**
                               Position: Team Lead

I was the team lead for a team of 10 people working on the "Hotels" section of the Opodo online offering (www.opodo.com). I was working on a contract basis for 6 months initially but this was extended a further 2 months at an increased rate. Initially my role was to take over the project from the existing team lead and was responsible for the technical aspects of the project going into production. This involved a steep learning curve of both the system and the culture of the company and its release processes. It also involved integrating with a well-established and cohesive team and adopting the position of technical leadership. I found it both a challenging and highly stimulating experience, which really put my previous knowledge to the test on all fronts, from process to technical.

The project was a complex e-commerce website involving SOAP communication through an xml gateway to several third party hotel booking systems. The technology involved secure transactions, credit card processing, xml messaging, back end financial logging, data warehousing and content management.

We successfully completed the phase of the project on time in December 04.

Subsequently I was responsible for leading the analysis and design of the final phase of the project, which involved creating a "mark-up" engine to allow Opodo to purchase hotel rooms at trade prices and sell them on with a given margin added. The margin could be determined via a web interface allowing the business users to create time / location based mark-ups. The analysis of this phase was particularly complex, allowing for many subtleties in the way in which hotel rooms are priced. There was also a complex tax situation as the hotel rooms may be charged at different tax rates in different countries. The website is available in multiple countries so all code was required to be internationalised. This had a major effect on all calculations as both the currency of the traveller and that of the hotel had to be taken into account.

During this second period of my time at Opodo I brought to bear much of the knowledge I had acquired in my previous roles in terms of OO design and methodology. Whilst the team were all fine technicians and had some familiarity with OO procedures, few had practiced it formally. I made heavy use of UML modelling in order to communicate with the team and keep in touch with what was happening on a technical level. I also played a strong role in directing the business analysis into a more formalised Use Case model.

Whilst I was mostly concerned with my specific project, I was also involved generally in the company with discussions about restructuring of process and architecture across teams, I found this very rewarding and that much of my previous experience was relevant.

Much of my work involved making Structural, performance, security, implementation framework, build structure and code repository decisions.

I found the experience as a whole very positive and informative and felt that my combination of deep technical awareness and sensitivity to the team dynamics made an excellent combination. I believe my success in the role is evidenced by the fact that my contract was extended at an increased rate.

On a personal level I found that getting to know the team and facilitating their work was very rewarding. Whilst previously my experience was largely technical, this role allowed me the opportunity to test both my interpersonal and technical skills in the setting of a high profile commercial website.

Feb 98 – Sept 04   **Systems Union Group Ltd, Farnborough, Hampshire**
                          Position: Technical Architect

I was the architect of a web-based framework built around struts, JSP and custom JSP tags. It is metadata-driven and was designed to integrate with several web projects we had running to provide a consistent feature set and ease maintenance. In early September I went to Shanghai for 2 weeks to roll out this framework for an existing project (Purchase Requisitioning) which I had previously been the architect for. This role involved designing the framework alongside communicating and championing its use within the company.

Last Project

In February 2004 I spent 2 months in Shanghai where we have an offshore development site. I was the architect for a new web-based project to develop a procurement application. My role was to transfer knowledge from the UK to our Chinese developers and develop the initial architecture for the application. This was a challenging opportunity for me because it meant assuming complete responsibility for the architecture of the project. It was also a valuable learning experience in terms of communication of ideas to developers.

As in the UK we are focused on building an extensive framework, this project allowed me to work outside our normal restrictions, thus giving me some valuable experience and perspective in creating a practical and usable architecture. In particular the project was scheduled to a very tight timescale so the main requirement was for a lightweight architecture that was fast for developers to learn and then work with.

Previous Projects

- Architect for the Web Tier Part Of Our Framework
  - In-depth research into available web frameworks and patterns
  - Based around Struts
  - Heavily Meta data Driven
  - Provides a well documented pattern-based approach to web development
  - Custom Tag Library
- Implementation of a source code generation / parsing subsystem for the framework
  - Using JavaCC to parse sourcecode to extract javadoc tags
  - Generation of code using velocity

- Technical Lead on a web base J2EE Project to create a purchase requisition system
  - Team of approximately 10 people
  - Web-Based Client (using struts), BMP Entity Beans, Session Beans
  - Configurable Objects
  - Swing Based Configuration Tool
  - Legacy Integration via proprietary XML gateway
  - Rule-Based Workflow using ILog Rules Engine
- Researching the basis of a new architecture for the product including:
  - Object-Relational mapping technology
  - Distributed Object Caching (effectively an application server)
  - Creating COM / OLEDB / ActiveX interface
  - Visual design tools for business analysts
  - Integration to J2EE technology
- Design and development of client / presentation layer in Java, including use of JavaBeans, InfoBus and RMI technologies
- Designing an XML / SOAP interface to the existing SunSystems application, for web access
- Designing an EJB-based portal framework
- Development of a Java sockets / servlet client to existing e-business gateway
- Demonstrations to senior Systems Union Management
- "Outstanding Achievement Award" in recognition of personal input to a previous project

Jan 96 – Jan 98   **ESP Direct Ltd, Oxford**
                             Position: IT Director

ESP was a small business that I was involved in creating. We specialised in direct marketing for our clients. My role was to maintain / determine the IT infrastructure during the initial setup of the company and provide a development resource. My programming environment was VB and Access. Projects included:

- Creation of an in-house customer / order management system
- Development of a configurable data entry application
- Development of tools for data processing (postcoding, duplicate removal, etc)
- Bespoke client project for Reading Scientific Services Ltd (RSSL). Complete lifecycle from initial customer contact through to delivery and support. The application was a marketing database management system and was delivered successfully on time and within budget

Aug 94 – Dec 95   **FGS Computer Systems Ltd, Newquay, Cornwall**
                             Position: VB Developer

I joined FGS after completing university. The business focused on hand-held computing solutions for the Van Sales / Delivery market. My role was initially to develop an Access reporting facility, and I later moved into visual basic programming. Projects included:

- Development of a standard reporting facility using Access and ODBC drivers
- Several on-site installations, including Unigate Dairies and the Guinness brewery in Mauritius. Main developer in turning around a previously failed VB project for Walter Bird, a flower distributor in Guernsey. This project required a complete rewrite whilst at the same time maintaining customer confidence, which at the beginning of the work was at a very low ebb. By the end of the project we had delivered a system that exceeded their expectations and had regained the trust of the customer

Education

1990 – 1994	University Of Edinburgh - Second Class Degree in Zoology, including a final year project based around a computer simulation of evolutionary and ecological genetics.
Secondary School	Newquay Tretherras School, Newquay, Cornwall – A levels (Biology B, Chemistry B, English C)

Personal

Date Of Birth	11th May 1972
Age	32
Marital Status	Single
Interests	Rock Climbing, Mountaineering, Tai Chi and Kung Fu, Ecological Simulations, Composing Electronic music, Science Fiction Literature

Valid UK driving license.