

## Robin Thijssen - Curriculum Vitae - Technical Architect & Development Lead

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### Objective and Summary:

I am a senior technical architect and development team leader specialising in Microsoft technologies and the .Net framework to deliver scalable, efficient, and elegant, enterprise solutions that break new ground while demonstrating simple, pragmatic solutions to complex problems.

I have extensive experience in coaching, mentoring and leading by example in the use of best practice in creating maintainable solutions. I am an advocate of Agile methodology in software development with emphasis on delivery of quantifiable results through the use of Scrum, Extreme Programming and Test Driven Development. I promote Agile because it facilitates *learning*, *transparency* and *client satisfaction*.

### Technical Skills

#### Programming and Scripting:

- Advanced C# in Visual Studio .NET
- Expression Trees, Generics, Lambda
- Mono deployments of .Net applications
- C++ (Visual Studio, Borland, Kylix)
- PHP (OO: PECL, Pear, GD)
- Perl, CGI, Shell, Bash, Cron
- (X/D)HTML, JavaScript, CSS

#### Database Development:

- Strong SQL skills
- Microsoft SQL Server
- .Net Data Integration with ADO.Net
- Oracle (PLSQL Developer, SQL Plus)
- MySQL, PostgreSQL, SQLite
- DB2 (AS400, ISeries)

#### Protocols and Technologies:

- XML, XSLT, Soap, RDF, RSS
- SMIL, WML, WAP Decks, SMS, MMS
- HTTP, TCP/IP, DNS, Ethernet, 802.11x

#### Configuration and Build Management:

I have strong skills in Source Control, Continuous Integration, automated build, deployment and release for complex software solutions and their associated databases, including: change control, defect tracking and UAT requirements.

#### Specialist Applications and Software:

- Visual Studio 2010, 2008
- MSBuild, Team System
- WCF, WSE3, WSE2
- NCover, FXCop, NUnit
- TestDriven.Net, CruiseControl.Net
- MS Visual Source Safe
- CVS, Subversion
- SQL Reporting Services, Crystal Reports
- MS Project, MS SharePoint
- Mandoforms
- Mono, MonoDevelop, Eclipse
- MXTelecom Mobile Services API
- GIS, Postzon Geodata
- CMS, SiteCore, Continuity

#### General:

Strong focus on the DotNet 3, 3.5 and 4 frameworks utilising expression trees, generics, linq & lambda expressions, WCF, WSE3, serialisation and internationalisation pertaining to Web Applications.

I have extensive experience in Web Development utilising Ajax and other Web 2.0 features and the development of complex integrated content management systems and their frameworks.

I have developed and ported a number of .Net applications to Mono environments on Debian Linux including the Subversion Reports project of which, I am the main developer/contributor.

### Professional Experience:

Visa Europe, *Technical Consultant*

03/2009 - Present

I am currently working in Reading with Visa Europe on an R&D spearhead project for transaction reporting and live monitoring of mission critical, high volume, key systems. My team are leading the .Net development program making use of cutting edge Microsoft technologies including C# 3.5, ASP.Net MVC, WCF, Team Foundation Server and SQL Server 2008. My role includes promotion of best of breed practices in scalable enterprise architecture, implementation of agile methodology, continuous integration with MSBuild and Team System as well as providing guidance and demonstration in the use of new C# 3.0/3.5 language constructs and syntax to support interfacing with Ab Initio and other financial transaction management systems.

Charteris Plc, Associate Consultant 03/2007 - 12/2008

At Charteris I filled the roles of technical architect, team leader and senior developer on the Associates program. I was responsible for solution design and technical architecture for a number of eCommerce and integration systems and I advocated industry best practices in numerous technical implementations for our clients. I played a key role in the restructuring of the Game.co.uk and GameStation.co.uk brands, ASP.Net websites and the ASP.Net/WCF-based, White-Label platform. The platform included numerous WCF services that enable the disparate warehousing, stock control, content and catalogue management systems of the various companies acquired by Game Group, to communicate and share information, facilitating a uniform offering across all brands.

In 2007, I led a team of 6 developers in the development of a new eCommerce platform and Web UI for Game.co.uk's Checkout and Order fulfilment applications. In 2008, I worked in Costa Rica, managing Charteris' off-shore operation where I recruited and managed a development team of 12 and a testing team of 5. I coordinated budget, logistics and project management of our overseas work and was responsible for full project lifecycle including liaising with our clients, partners and suppliers.

BT Exact (British Telecom), Build Manager 01/2007 - 02/2007

This brief role entailed delivery of the deployment and staging environments for a high profile, eCommerce web site for an entertainment artist. The technologies utilised included Microsoft's Team Foundation Server, Commerce Server 2007, SharePoint, BizTalk and Verified by Visa. I was responsible to manage and automate regular deployments through a number of complex, secure environments.

Health Protection Agency, Technical Architect / Development Lead 08/2006 - 12/2006

I designed and implemented an advanced tuberculosis surveillance and reporting solution at the Centre for Infections. The application monitors disease outbreaks and patient care throughout the United Kingdom. My remit included the system design and architecture as well as developing the infrastructure for builds, releases and testing. I was also involved with negotiations with customers and users around both technical and user requirements as well as analysis and project planning.

The solution architecture was centred around SQL Server 2005 with dynamic SQL Reporting Services, .Net 2.0 (C#), MSBuild, Atlas (Ajax), Web Services and took advantage of the rad/telerik libraries. The user interface contained many web 2.0 features while the middle tier was supported by a WSE solution that provided interfaces to the various regional authority databases and reporting systems using ADO.Net to connect to it's own SQL Server datastore. I was involved with implementing patterns and practices for other projects and promoting Agile methodologies within the development departments.

Atos Origin, Development Lead 02/2006 - 07/2006

My recent contract with Atos involved development of a flagship quotation solution for Vanco Plc. The project was based on the DotNet 2.0 framework. I handled solution design and configuration management in cooperation with the Technical Architect. My role included ensuring the use of best practice solutions across the functional requirements. I incorporated the Microsoft Enterprise Library data, transaction, logging and exception libraries using ADO.Net and an entities based DAL. I also introduced the team to Continuous Integration utilising automated, source control based builds using CruiseControl.Net and MSBuild. I was responsible to educate developers and stakeholders on Agile principles and to advocate the use of Agile methodologies and Test Driven Development within the business.

Conchango, Lead DotNet Developer 10/2005 - 02/2006

This position, for one of the UK's leading Agile software development companies was based in Nottingham, developing C# applications on the DotNet 2 framework within Team System. Our focus was on delivery of mission critical enterprise applications centred around dispensing of drugs and other pharmaceuticals for Boots PLC. We were working within tight deadlines to provide a solution that tied a number of NHS and commercial enterprise solutions together. We developed within an Agile/Scrum environment with participation from Conchango, Boots, IBM and Microsoft. The project was interesting and unique in that it was one of the first in the UK to implement the .Net 2 framework at its level of complexity with an SQL 2005/ADO.Net back-end. This was a highly skilled team made up entirely of senior developers who are leaders in their respective fields. Strong focus was placed on thorough implementation of best practices and continuous integration using Agile, Continuous Integration and Team System.

M-Corp, Senior Developer

08/2005 - 10/2005

This contract position was for a prestigious DotNet development house in Hampshire. I worked with the company's *Continuity* application framework and content management system. My responsibilities included creating bespoke software solutions for clients like Motorola, Dean & Dyball and the RNLI. Our principle technologies were ASP.Net and C# on the DotNet 1.1 Framework and one of my more interesting projects involved porting the existing Continuity codebase to run on the Linux and Mac Mono DotNet framework. I also made extensive use of the ITextSharp libraries to dynamically generate complex PDF documentation. We also made extensive use of Trac and Subversion for Source Control. As Continuity delivers pure XML content, much of my work entailed development of the XSL transformations to XHTML.

British Telecom, BT Exact, Senior Developer

06/2005 - 08/2005

My position at BT was a contract developing for the 'FastPeter' project. I developed and supported transaction based messaging applications in C#. My team's focus was on the enabling of simultaneous provision of PSTN and ADSL for UK customers. We facilitated the provision of broadband to BT customers as well as our wholesale client's customers and those on the unbundled exchanges (basically, all broadband in the UK). We employed Continuous Integration, Test Driven Development and Agile Methodologies in an Extreme Programming environment utilising MSBuild, Nant, NUnit and Version One.

As an Agile development team we developed in fortnightly iterations which allowed us to focus our efforts on priority business requirements and respond quickly to change and implementation requests. I was responsible for the migration of C++ and VB.Net code to C#. This involved a great deal of refactoring and because we ran a Test Driven environment I wrote a great deal of NUnit test code in C# to ensure that the migration and refactoring resulted in stable, bug free code that met requirements. We also formalised our enterprise integration patterns through the use of a Pipes and Filters approach to message handling.

Centrax Ltd., Turbine Components, Business Process Manager

10/2004 - 04/2005

My focus at Centrax was on the development of the stock requirements, forecasting and management system. The project encompassed the integration of Business Objects, Crystal Reports and bespoke PHP4, PHP5 and Perl web applications with an AS400 DB2 ODBC backend. I was the lead developer and managed a small team of IT personnel. I had responsibility for the technical architecture and design of a number of business applications focussed around ERP. The role involved a significant use of complex SQL, VB6, Object Oriented PHP and C++. As a manufacturing company we worked to customer and business requirements which required a great deal of flexibility and a 'roll up your sleeves' approach to problem solving and customer satisfaction.

Devon County Council, Senior Developer

06/2004 - 10/2004

Working on Devon's Local Government e-Enablement project, I was responsible for the design, development and maintenance of the reporting infrastructure using Crystal Reports and Oracle data-sources. I maintained and administered the associated Business Objects servers. Much of the work involved data analysis, writing complex SQL queries and providing advice to staff and contractors on the use of Crystal Reports, writing SQL queries and procedures and the use of client tools including PLSQL.

TxtNation (mSolutions) LLP., Chief Technical Architect

09/2002 - 06/2004

Initially I was the sole developer for this Start-Up mobile solutions provider. As the company progressed and grew I undertook responsibility for a team of developers. As head of development I was responsible for solution design and configuration management. I managed and contributed to the development of numerous bespoke OO C# and PHP applications for delivery of mobile services and the internal management of reports and statistical analysis. I also managed the migration of our data services from MySQL to Oracle RDBMS when volume and platform dictated. The role was extreme and technical, involving many strategic decisions and intense development of cutting edge applications for the mobile market in this fast-paced and competitive industry. As a customer-facing and results-oriented business, Agile methodology and principles was our natural development environment.

-- Roles prior to 09/2002 removed for brevity.

## **Education:**

BSc (Hons) Computer Systems and Networks, University of Plymouth, United Kingdom .

Completed my studies with honours and received an Upper Second Class degree (2:1). It was a four year sandwich course which meant that I took a year out to complete a relevant industrial placement. The course included a strong programming element in C and C++. My final year project and dissertation was centred on Web Service technologies and their use in the commercial dissemination of information across the World Wide Web.

Foundation Engineering, University of Plymouth, United Kingdom .

One year course, completed with distinction. The course included modules from a variety of disciplines, notably, Computer Science, Civil Engineering and Environmental Sciences. It also featured some fairly intense Mathematics and Statistics.

## **Hobbies and Interests:**

I enjoy outdoor sports with mountain biking at the top of the list closely followed by snowboarding when time permits.

Perhaps less interesting is my involvement with Open-Source projects and programming for the sake of it within Linux community based projects. I am a regular contributor to Open Source Software because I believe that elegant, efficient, secure code can only be achieved and proven through transparent scrutiny and because I have learned a great deal from scrutiny of the work of others in the OS community.

I also enjoyed a year in Kenya working with the Red Cross and UNICEF providing food and medical aid to children affected by poverty. I was based in Nairobi and involved with distribution of aid. I also spent six months prior to this involved with fund-raising efforts in Ireland and the UK. My job entailed soliciting contributions from businesses and corporations and was overall a very rewarding experience.