

Juan M Uys
~coder and hacker~
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Education and qualifications

2003: Diploma in Scientific Computing - (ISSC/RAU, South Africa)
Courses in Neural Nets, Genetic Algorithms and Cellular Automata.
2004: Partially completed BSc, IT Management - (UNISA, South Africa)
CURRENT: Awaiting accreditation from OU.

Profile

I'm a programmer with a knack for excellent systems implementation and design. I love tinkering with code, electronics and robotics and I make music in my free time.

Technical skill summary (random pickings from memory)

Java, Linux, Scala, Ruby, Perl, JavaScript, C#, SQL, Bash scripting, markup, ColdFusion, MySQL, PostgreSQL, JDBC, Hibernate, Apache, Tomcat, SVN, CVS, JBoss, Jetty, FastCGI, Spring, Struts, Velocity, Eclipse, NetBeans, WSAD, Java Wireless Toolkit, WSAD, Visual Studio .NET, J2ME, EJB, UML, MVC, Agile, Ajax, JSON, JSON-RPC, XML-RPC, CSS, Maven, Hudson, Sonar

Employment history

Net-a-porter.com - a leading e-tailer of luxury fashion
January 2007 - current, London/UK
Java Developer

Everything implemented in Java unless otherwise specified; no particular order.

- * Integration (gradual): Spring 1.2/2.0/2.5.5/3.0 into a Struts 1 web app
- * Credit card database that enable customers to save their card details on our system; adherence to PCI compliance; use of BouncyCastle library
- * Payment system (PSP) - adherence to PCI compliance; use of Apache CXF library for SOAP messaging between PSP and websites/Perl backend systems
- * Database migration tool (dbtool) with which to patch the database (Bash)
- * CI environment; script executed from Maven (hence Hudson); in the style of Capistrano (Bash)
- * TheOutnet.com - buyline, shopping basket; more use of Spring; common code shared with Net-a-porter; il8n
- * Administration tool weaved into website to replace antiquated BaskOffice system; customer/admin roles; Aspect oriented programming (AOP)
- * Affiliate integration (LinkShare); (AOP)
- * RDFa - annotating existing HTML with metadata to cover a larger set of webcrawlers/search bots
- * URL shortener (open source and hosted on github, written in Scala using Lift) Net-a-porter.com now needn't use bit.ly/etc who might change their T&Cs; we now own our own links; better metrics that the other sites can offer
- * NAP API design; new apps (mobile, touch-screens, kiosks) can now tap into a common API; heavy use of RequestMapping annotation and content negotiation
- * NAP Checkout (like Google Checkout) for use with NAP API, and a common checkout system for the existing websites
- * Refactoring of NAP model components to use Spring DAO support; refactored into a separate re-usable module; transaction support
- * Acting team lead on various occasions (code reviews, scrum)
- * Headed 3-weekly tech forum; new technology; incubation
- * Misc: Various enhancements, also using jQuery, taglibs; new Java Starter script (Bash,TCL) which enables new starters to set up a dev environment in a couple of hours; website new look&feel with increased sales from 20% year-on-year growth for weeks 1-9, to 65% growth for weeks 10 (launch) - 18;

new promotions engine which can be configured by customer, email, price, season, designer, customer list, per-item, per-basket, etc;

<http://www.mobilize-systems.com/> (previously The Light Agency)
Sept 2006 - January 2007, London/UK
Senior Java Developer

Everything implemented in Java unless otherwise specified; no particular order.

- * MBargo - "Text 'join' to 62111"; bar-code on mobile phone that boosts sales via offers; multi-tiered project /w Join Server, web services between MBargo Offers and partner's POS (JBoss and SOAP/JMS/EJB3.0); content negotiation
- * iCue (<http://www.i-cue.co.uk/>) - mobile ebook reader; multi-mode; J2ME on Nokia S60, SE, Motorola, etc; book store in partnership with Bango
- * Misc: XSLT which parses the WURFL (<http://wurfl.sourceforge.net/>) and imports the data into a PostgreSQL database

RFL: Enough exposure to mobile apps and time to move on to enterprise/retail

<http://www.financeleadsonline.co.uk> / <http://www.beatthatquote.com>
FLO is the UK fastest growing start-up and won the HSBC regional award for best start-up in the London region. The company's core business is generating and selling financial leads.
Dec 2005 - Sept 2006, London/UK
Developer

- * MI System - leads submissions system; extended the system with 4 new products (property, life insurance, pension, and investment) on top of existing loans and mortgages
- * Direct 2 Broker system (Ruby on Rails, Ajax); extension to MI system; cuts out underwriter stage
- * IFA self-service system (Struts, Velocity)
- * Misc: Ad-hoc reports (Perl); new test framework (Ruby, Watir, Selenium)

RFL: Hard work and initial drive helped grow the company from 5 to 40 in a few months, and I moved onto new challenges.

The early part of my career is summarised here.

Sep 2005 - Dec 2005, Freelancer, London/UK
* re-skilling: R&D; CMS system; J2ME games development
* freelance/bespoke dev: for MBD (a previous employer) e.g. UCEA site re-design and search indexing;
<http://opyate.com/portfolio/index.html>;
<http://bravacasa.co.uk/tmp/index.php> (now defunct);
* consultancy: TAIB Securities

May 2004 - Aug 2005, Developer, Man Bytes Dog (MBD), London/UK
<http://www.manbytesdog.net>
* Cambian Healthcare Marketing Database System (C#, IIS, MSSQL)
* UCEA Web site; UCEA Client Database
* VITAL; support
RFL: Java/Open Source beckons :-)

October 2003 - March 2004, Web Developer, Business Edge Systems (BES), JHB/SA
<http://www.businessedge.co.za>
E-business consultancy/bespoke dev to major blue chips/gov/banking/Forex.
* Investec (London/JHB): single sign-on secure site (XML, SOAP, ColdFusion)
* Moraine Systems' Glacier Suite: financial software suite (C#)
* LeasePlan SA: Migration of Development Environment and Source Code (WSAD, MSSQL, Tomcat 4.1, Rational ClearCase, Jetty)
RFL: UK, here I come!

May 2002 - September 2003, (only) Developer, iGate Technologies, JHB/SA
Internet advertising, wireless internet bandwidth provision, and web services.
* iCatcher Back-office system: ad engine; control panel
* iCatcher Reporting Engine: DB to XML, transformed using XSL
* iCatcher Ads: creative (DHTML, JavaScript, VBScript, Flash, Photoshop)

- * iCatcher Network: in conjunction with www.doubleclick.com and www.checkm8.com mobile sales tool (J2ME, WML)
 - * Sysadmin: 3 mission-critical Linux servers
 - * Newsletter engine: HTML scraped, made it email-safe, put clickthru counters on all hrefs, emailed it to distribution list (Perl, HTML, Majordomo, Postgres)
- RFL: it was my first job, I learnt a lot, and was ready for something bigger.

References available on request

Net-a-porter.com, Matt Ryall, Dev Manager, 08456 75 13 21
The Light Agency, Stefan Magnusson, +44 (0) 7900 215 705
Finance Leads Online, John Newby (IT Director), 0845 094 3552
MBD, Jonathan Young, Managing Director, 44(0)20 7462 9900 / 07000 WWW MBD
Business Edge Systems, Schalk van der Merwe, HR, 27(0)11 803 9330