

John Baker

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Profile

Sun certified Java/J2EE enterprise architect with over 12 years development experience. A broad background in UML design, pure development, consulting and mentoring of IT solutions throughout many industry sectors, gained in quality companies. Along the way, I have also gained experience in design and development for a number of other frameworks and technologies such as Microsoft C#/.NET.

Skills

- ❖ J2EE – Sun Certified Enterprise Architect with a deep understanding and experience of J2EE and related APIs including EJB, Servlet, JSP, JMS, JNDI, JTA, JMS, JavaMail, RMI, JDBC, JCA, JAXP, JAAS and many other important Java APIs including Swing and Java Activation Framework. Experience with application server technologies especially Jboss.
- ❖ UML – Experienced in use of UML for modelling application specifications and designs. Fluent in use of design patterns including the standard GoF patterns such as MVC and Sun Java Centre Pattern Catalogue and recommended best practices.
- ❖ SOA – Design of modular systems based around service oriented architecture principles.
- ❖ Database Design – Experienced in design of domain modelling using entity relationship diagrams to produce a normalised table structure. Also familiar with DB migration and integration strategies. Experience in SQL with Oracle, PostgreSQL, MySQL, SQLServer and some other database platforms. Also experienced in current persistence methodologies such as ORM via Hibernate HQL and patterns such as Active Record and DAO.
- ❖ Web Development - Experienced with frameworks and tools such as Apache Struts, Apache Wicket, Echo 2, Spring MVC, JSF, Servlets, Tomcat, Velocity Templates.
- ❖ Build methodologies – Experienced with tools such as Eclipse, Ant, Maven, Continuum and Cruise Control.
- ❖ OOAD/COAD - modular application design supporting custom plug-ins for extended functionality without change to original code for purposes of future proofing to ease application advancement and change management over project lifecycle.
- ❖ Legacy application façade and systems integration methodologies such as Mainframe terminal screen scraping etc.
- ❖ Optimization strategies for high load applications.
- ❖ Refactoring strategies and principles.
- ❖ A skilled team facilitator, either as leader or participant, used to working with in house and 3rd party groups. Experience as technical lead, in-house developer training and mentoring.
- ❖ Analytical and outcomes driven, able to communicate objectives with clarity.
- ❖ Commercial with a good understanding of business context.
- ❖ Practical and delivery focused, with a mature attitude to risk and reward.

Career Summary

JDiligence

Freelance September 2007 - Current

Working independently as a freelancer I was responsible for the design and development of an online recruitment system for adrem.uk.com using python/django technologies. I built the backend for the new online football pools magazine and a new online football magazine called catflap using Microsoft C#/.NET technologies.

RDF Group Ltd April 2006 – June 2007

RDF is a successful software consultancy with a robust and structured model driven development process derived from Rational Unified Process (RUP) providing full lifecycle traceability, from initial analysis and scoping through to design, code, and test artefacts. RDF's client base is mainly blue chip financial organisations.

UML Designer/Senior Java Developer

UML Design for mform, an online mortgage application. Duties also included the mentoring of junior java developers. The system was built using the Echo2 AJAX framework and hibernate. Also designed and built an online tenant cross checking systems for landlords and letting agents using the Apache Wicket framework.

UML Designer/C# .NET Developer

Design and development for a pension quotation system using Microsoft C#/.NET technologies.

SoftComms Ltd August 2003 – April 2006

Independent consultancy providing services to companies lacking the resources to hire a full time architect to facilitate the initial stages of a project through analysis and design and to ensure implementation of a structured development strategy.

J2EE architectural consultant and development mentor

Coordinated the development process of a web based out-of-the-box business administration and management tool set. Provided architecture, guidelines and planning for project and provided training and mentoring for the developers.

Architect and developer

Designed and implemented a web based online backup solution consisting of 4 interacting systems – a swing client application that watches files on local machine, a distributed repository service for file storage and an MVC web app for user account management, a billing server linked to world pay.

Architect and developer

Designed and implemented a swing based desktop vehicle hire application with an EJB/JMS backend running inside Jboss application server.

Unique Interactive July 2002 – July 2003

The data connectivity arm of UBC Media group plc. Specialists in DAB Digital Radio data technology, providing entire DAB data solutions from design, implementation and build through to complete after-sales service.

Architect and Senior Developer

Designed and managed implementation of the worlds first electronic programme guide system (EPG) for radio broadcasting with a potential audience at launch of 22.5 million. Provides data collection, warehousing, management and broadcast of the EPG in an agreed worldwide standard. Designed a number of different mechanisms for importing data from broadcasters to make integration with existing systems as simple as possible. Designed pluggable desktop component to enable those service providers without internal EPG management systems to provide content (EPG Workbench). Designed pluggable interface and components to supply data to third party systems such as SKY EPG and NTL's radio digital multiplexers (Allowing reception by EPG enabled DAB receivers). Also provided necessary training and mentoring in Java/J2EE to the developers involved.

Katalyzt Software Ltd May 2000 – March 2002

ISV producing interaction management tools for work process facilitation. Producing cutting edge technology for the SME market.

Product Architect and Technical Lead

Produced technical architecture for the envisioned application. Mentored developers and monitored coding practices to ensure architecture was sensibly adhered to, platform independence was maintained and recommendations and specs were understood. Development was also undertaken of all application components requiring specialized design skills or knowledge of difficult programming issues such as dynamic class loading and thread synchronization.

Achievements

- Performed analysis of requirements resulting in a breakdown of main application concepts to support in subsequent APIs.
- Developed open APIs so development of modules could proceed in parallel and extensions easily out-sourced or developed by clients in-house when client-specific functionality was required.
- Designed and developed a modular swing based front-end application to support extensible functionality at run-time via the above open APIs.
- Designed the initial set of front-end modules with the idea being that each front-end module is it's own rich front-end to a corresponding back-end module (usually EJB based) but appearing to be an integrated part of the main front-end.
- Designed initial set of back-end modules using server side J2EE technologies such as EJB, JMS and JavaMail. A sophisticated Email SMTP tracking engine and POP3 robot were developed using JavaMail.
- Designed and developed generic value object persistence manager to aid database independence and performance optimisation.

Eland Technologies Ltd Aug 1999 - May 2000

Software solutions Company catering directly to the airline Industry, producing mission critical high volume transaction software for blue chip customers. Cutting edge technology, for a fast moving Industry

Technical Architect and Lead Developer

Designed and built proof-of-concepts for new travel agent software. Worked closely with large international travel agent client to implement their vision.

Achievements

- Designed and implemented java APIs for access to flagship transaction/messaging middleware product
- Designed and implemented first stages of modular component orientated application as replacement for clients legacy application

In-House Trainer and Java Consultant

Provided in-house training courses for java developers.

Achievements

- Instilled greater respect and understanding of OO concepts in many interested developers used to procedural programming methods.
- Tutorials on effective use of relevant java APIs to ongoing projects.
- Provided mentoring service to developers to avoid the pitfalls associated with lack of Java and/or OO experience, which often lead to inflexible, buggy and hard-to-maintain applications.
- Provided consultancy to management on how to keep in step with newly emerging Java technologies relevant to in flagship messaging middleware product.

Voyager Technologies Ltd Nov 1997 – Aug 1999

A Company dedicated to supplying user-friendly front-end solutions to legacy mainframe host screen scraping. VTI developed it's own scripting language named V-Script, which was purchased by IBM in 1995. Since then VTI has serviced many *blue chip* customers from the travel to finance industry.

Senior Developer

Extending existing proprietary code. Bringing general Java knowledge and experience to company that was receiving demands from clients and quickly realizing that Java was not going to go away and would have to be taken seriously as a new force in the software industry.

Achievements:

- Designed and implemented APIs to enable linking of java modules with their proprietary language V-Script involving use of JNI to interact with the proprietary language kernel.
- Designed and implemented a number of extensions to existing credit processing applications for financial institution.

Other

41 years old with one son. In spare time, I enjoy being a keen musician with own recording studio at home.

