

## James McCormack

YORKSHIRE-BASED ASP.NET - C# - SQL CONTRACTOR

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### Profile:

Highly experienced, self-motivated freelance software engineer / technical architect. Dedicated to developing high-performance, maintainable web applications with an emphasis on usability / UX. A natural problem solver, able to hit the ground running when time is tight and specification documentation is thin.

### Qualifications:

Microsoft Certified Application Developer (**MCAD** – Web / C# / SQL) : Completed 2007

**2.1 BSc (Hons) Information Systems** at the University of Leeds, UK: Completed 1997

20 points at A-Level, 9 GCSEs including 6 A grades from the Nottingham Bluecoat School, UK: Completed 1994

### Technical Skills and Experience:

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Web development (server-side) | <b>ASP.NET, MVC 2/3 + Razor, C#, ASP, PHP, Visual Basic, vbScript, COM/ActiveX, Perl, Java Servlets / JSP</b>  |
| Web development (client-side) | Hand-coded HTML, CSS, JavaScript, <b>jQuery, AJAX + JSON</b> , XSL   |
| Data                          | <b>SQL Server</b> with extensive <b>T-SQL</b> , MySQL, XML, SSIS, SSRS. I promote the use of <b>ORM</b> frameworks such as <b>Entity Framework</b> , Linq2Sql, Castle ActiveRecord and <b>NHibernate</b> .   |
| Microsoft Server Products     | <b>SharePoint 2010</b> (customization and web parts), SSRS, BizTalk  |
| Content Management Systems    | Immediacy, RedDot, MS CMS, DotNetNuke, Joomla, Drupal  |
| Windows development           | Windows Forms and Services development (VB6, C#.NET 2.0)   |
| Software Development Approach | I use <b>Design Patterns</b> where appropriate and embrace the <b>MVC</b> approach for separation of concerns. I am enthusiastic about reusable OO coding, and embrace the concept of object composition / dependency injection etc. to avoid the pitfalls of over-reliance on class inheritance. I espouse source versioning systems such as Subversion (with Tortoise), TFS or SourceSafe. |
| System Design                 | Wide-ranging experience in design and development of web software systems, including workflow and reporting software, utility energy data products, commercial <b>Content Management Systems</b> , global intranets and <b>E-Commerce</b> software and sites. Integration with other systems (e.g. Payment Gateways) using a variety of methods e.g. XML-RPC, cURL, SOAP etc.                |
| User Interface Design         | <b>Usability</b> and <b>Accessibility</b> are topics of personal interest. I have performed Accessibility review and consultancy for clients, taking into account requirements such as <b>WCAG</b> , DDA, SOCITM and Section 508.  |
| Quality Assurance             | I perform automated unit-testing with integrated Visual Studio test tools and use <b>Mocking</b> frameworks to create test rigs when simulating web-browser interaction, mocking up HttpContexts etc. I favor the use of Issue and Change-Request Tracking software e.g. Target Process, Quality Center etc. I work well in partnership with dedicated test teams.                           |
| Webserver admin               | <b>IIS</b> , Apache  |
| Operating Systems             | I am comfortable with command-line Linux and Win32. I have installed websites on Linux and Windows Servers. Scripting with bash, perl, WSH etc.  |

## **Project & Management Skills:**

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|--|--|
| People management                            | Leading, mentoring and support for a team of developers. Development, agreement and policing of coding standards.  |
| Senior management / Board level liaison      | Regular liaison and consultancy with senior management in order to achieve business goals. Relied upon as a source of technical expertise and advice.                              |
| Client-facing skills                         | Extensive experience of customer liaison, sales presentations, client project workshops, and working with clients to analyze business requirements and develop technical solutions |
| Quality-focused Project Development Approach | Interested in Kaizen method and use of Lean and <b>Agile</b> practices, e.g. XP, Scrum, Kanban etc.  |
| Analysis, design and documentation           | Requirements gathering and documentation, estimation, process modeling, data analysis, database design. Production of proposal documents and development / user documentation      |

## **Contract History and Project Highlights:**

8/2011 – Present : Consultant Architect / Developer, Bliss-Systems Ltd, Leeds, UK

### **CRM / Sales Pipeline** (ASP.NET 4.0, MVC 3, Entity Framework, jQuery, AJAX, Active Directory)

This contract was to provide The Technology Partnership with a modern, dynamic internal CRM system to help them manage their customers and leads. Their unique requirements meant that an off-the-shelf package would be too restrictive, so I developed a new system from the ground up, hooking into their Active Directory system to provide authorization, recognition and group features.

### **Claims Process Software** (ASP.NET 4.0, MVC 3, Entity Framework, jQuery, AJAX)

This contract was to provide a customer claims system for Bosch, incorporating a front-end web site and claims process, with a back-end claims management suite, featuring integration with Citibank. This proved to be extremely popular with their customers and the system has handled over 25,000 claims in its first 3 months of operation.

**1/2011 – 7/2011: Consultant Architect / Developer, thebigword Ltd, Leeds, UK**

### **Line-of-Business Systems** (ASP.NET 4.0, MVC 3, Entity Framework, Unity, Salesforce, jQuery, AJAX)

This contract was to join and provide technical leadership for a team of developers working on a full suite of internal and external facing systems to support the critical operational areas of the enterprise. This comprised extranet portals to provide self-service functions to clients and suppliers, and an intranet to provide internal job / client / supplier management and reporting functions. Essential to the success of this project was extensive integration with Salesforce CRM via Web Services / SSIS. The team operated using Agile Scrum methodology, with unit testing, automated UX tests with selenium, continuous integration with Cruise Control, and Subversion CVS.

**10/2010 – 12/2010: Consultant Architect / Developer, Enjoy Digital, Leeds, UK**

### **E-Commerce Site Redevelopment** (ASP.NET 4.0, MVC 2, C#, NHibernate, ActiveRecord, jQuery, AJAX)

This contract was to develop the core site framework and administrative interface for the site of a large retailer. A focus on usability and extensive use of jQuery and AJAX provides the client with a powerful and rapid interface for managing all their products, customers and data.

**5/2010 – 10/2010: Consultant Architect / Developer, Bliss Systems Ltd, Leeds, UK**

### **Instant Chat Application** (ASP.NET 4.0, MVC 2, C#, SQL Server 2008, Entity Framework, jQuery, AJAX)

This contract was to develop a web-based instant chat application for the NHS, allowing GPs and Consultants to collaborate in real time. The always-on nature of this application required extensive use of AJAX and jQuery, while MVC provided the ideal server-side architecture.

#### **SharePoint 2010 Development** (Customization, Web Parts, jQuery, AJAX)

This contract was to customize a SharePoint 2010 site for a systems integrator, to meet their business needs and meet a strict graphic-design. This involved setting up the SharePoint 2010 environment including search, customizing master pages and page layouts, implementing asset and document libraries, and developing custom Web Parts.

**2/2008 – 5/2010 : Consultant Architect / Developer, Department of Work and Pensions, Leeds, UK**

#### **Data Recording, Analysis and Reporting Software** (ASP.NET 3.5, C#, SQL Server 2005, jQuery, AJAX)

My contract at the DWP was for the architecture and rolling development of a large **ASP.NET 3.5** software system used within the department to allow field teams to gather Benefit Fraud / Error data on thousands of customers and then analyse and report results. This involved a ground-up redevelopment of an existing system with several important improvements in the areas of automated validation, performance and ease of use (GUI design with **AJAX** controls), and the ability to cover several Benefit types across the Department. The reporting suite was developed using **ActiveReports** and hand-made Server Controls. A **Linq2Sql** ORM architecture enables rapid development and simple maintenance.

**2/2007 – 2/2008 : Consultant Developer, StarCompliance Ltd, York, UK**

#### **Financial Trading Software** (ASP.NET, C#, SQL Server 2005, AJAX)

My contract at StarCompliance was for a ground-up redevelopment of the presentation layer to a large **C# .NET 2** trading system. This has involved the design and architecture of the **ASP.NET** pages and development of a suite of **AJAX**-enabled **WebControls** and components to provide an intuitive, productivity-enhancing interface. This application made good use of domain-driven design, Use-Case-based abstraction in the object model, and NHibernate **ORM**. For a video of the system in use, please download: <http://zfi.org.uk/star.wmv>

**6/2000 – 2/2007: Head of Software Development, NetConstruct Ltd, Wetherby, UK**

#### **E-Commerce** (ASP.NET, C#, SQL Server 2005 : 2005-2007)

Architect and Lead Developer of a major e-commerce operation providing over 20 branded sales channels for major clients such as **Debenhams, John Lewis, House of Fraser, Selfridges, Habitat, and Argos**. Developed in **ASP.NET 2**, featuring use of Web Services, Master Pages, Custom Server Controls, and dynamic Sorted Paged Datagrids. All channels are controlled from a centrally managed, load-balanced system that integrates with the back office fulfillment-house systems.

#### **Content Management** (ASP.NET, C#, SQL Server 2005, AJAX : 2005-2007)

Building on experience of developing a PHP Content Management System from 2000-2005, I developed a fully featured **WYSIWYG CMS** in **ASP.NET 2** to provide a well-documented, extendable suite, with version control, workflow approval and built-in licensing control to allow usage by resellers. Document libraries, extranets and data presentation systems have been developed with the object-oriented API and open 'PageBrick' drag-and-drop control technology. During this time I also led a team of developers to provide **E-Commerce** and Web Analytics software to plug into the product. Over 200 companies now use the system, including **Cadbury Schweppes** (on their internal Intranet), <http://www.greenandblacksdirect.com>, <http://www.cannonconsumables.com>, <http://www.xscape.co.uk>, <http://www.visitpeakdistrict.com> (WCAG Accessibility AAA compliant) and <http://www.sandtoft.co.uk> .

I have also developed content-managed sites using 3<sup>rd</sup> party CMS solutions, notably **Microsoft CMS 2002** and **Immediacy 5**. I have been on the **Red Dot** developer training course.

#### **Global Intranet Portal** (PHP, MySQL : 2005)

Designed and implemented an Intranet site for **Cadbury Schweppes**. With global scope, the system required language versioning, content-filtering mechanisms and document management functionality to be added to our **Content Management** product, which I added using its modular plugin model. I also managed the liaison and coordination with international project stakeholders to implement the system.

**7/1998 – 6/2000: Analyst Programmer, Yorkshire Electricity Group, Leeds, UK**

**Data Reporting** (ASP, VB6, SQL Server 7 : 1999/2000)

I was given responsibility for the design, production and implementation of **Yorkshire Electricity's** flagship Web-based data application. My solution was a tiered component-based system with **ASP (vbscript)**, **Perl**, custom **VB7 COM** objects to manage the creation of chart images and CSV files on demand, and **SQL Server 7**. This database in turn was fed from existing business data flows, so the system as a whole was one of the first true e-business applications. It ran for a full 10 years before it was replaced!

**Enterprise Intranet** (Perl, SQL Server 7 : 1998-1999)

I was employed by **Yorkshire Electricity** to develop their Intranet systems. I developed a framework using ActiveState **Perl** with NT authentication and the standard desktop build to provide a Content-Managed **Intranet** (one of the first ever Content Management Systems!) where users were free to submit all types of documents, and designated people from the business were enabled to manage the content of their own intranet business areas. I also produced a telephone directory featuring search facilities and staff photographs, and a live bulletin board discussion system.

**5/1997 – 7/1998: Web Developer, FLG21, Leeds, UK**

**Web Development** (Perl, HTML, Javascript, CSS : 1997-1998)

Fresh from university and one of the few people in the region with any experience of HTML, JavaScript and Perl, I joined this fledgling New Media agency to develop sites for such varied clients as **Clifford Chance**, **PriceWaterhouseCoopers**, **PA Consulting**, **Ferrari...** and Slush Puppy!