Conor Woods

Senior Software Engineer

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Summary
Conor has over 17 years' experience working in the I.T. industry, primarily as a full stack developer.

His development roles include working as a senior software engineer for the BBC, Verint and several high profile companies in both the public and private sector (TFL, Scottish Power, PowerNi, Met Police, Network Rail).

His wide spectrum of experience has led him to lead diverse I.T. projects from community based collaboration platforms for disaster stricken citizens, to big data search portals to find relevant information for journalists. His technical experience includes an in-depth knowledge of mobile, web and server technologies.

His experience as a 'full stack' developer has led him to talk at several conferences where he regularly talks about modern developer practices.

Education
MSc (CCI) (Open) Computing For Commerce & Industry, 2008

Premiere Graduate Management Programme (Premiere Systems), 1999

BSc (Hons) Economics/Philosophy, Queens, Belfast, 1999

Rapid Advancement Programme (BIC Systems), 2000

Experience

April 2017-Present

Freelance Developer – Full Stack Web & Hybrid App

Clients: Coventry University, Action for Children, UK Home Office, Spatialest, King County Assessors Office (USA).

Challenge: After leaving the BBC I set myself up as a freelance software developer specialising in full stack web and hybrid app projects.

Results: Working alongside Coventry University we created a hybrid app and supporting architecture (within 1 month) which has now been given further funding by the home office. Spatialest have also penned a new contact with King County to extend their citizen portal facilities (on which I will be technical lead).

Main Technologies: Angular4, Ionic3, API.AI, ElasticSearch, Docker, NodeJS, PHP, JWT.

August 2016-April 2017

BBC. Senior Software Developer – Software Innovation Group

Client: BBC – Rewind Project

Project Objective: Provide a web interface (and supporting architecture) for journalists to search and access the archived content of the BBC.

Responsibilities: I was hired to be part of a small full stack team tasked with developing a solution for BBC archive material search. The role involved architecting and coding a solution which catalogued multiple BBC data stores and made the material quickly and easily searchable within the organisation. I was involved in coding and designing at all levels of the stack including Docker, Elastic, NodeJs and Angular. As well as putting in the hours to make sure the basic system functioned correctly we also pushed the technology boundaries by implementing speech-to-text technologies so that the system's users could unearth long forgotten archive material.

Results: The project has been so successful that it has now been elevated within the corporation and has transferred to an implementation team in London.

Main Technologies: Angular, ElasticSearch, Docker, NodeJS, JWT, Mocha, Agile.

October 2013-July 2016

Spatialest. Senior Technical Lead - EU Research & Development

Clients: European Union, King County

Project Objective: Improve collaboration between affected citizens, volunteer groups and professional organisations to recover faster from disaster.

Challenge: Build & field test next generation software and processes that demonstrably improve resilience among communities within the EU.

Responsibilities: I was initially hired to become a coder on this multi-million-euro EU R&D project, but very quickly rose to Senior Technical Lead and the company's chief representative on the project. During the project, I was required to research, design, code and implement a unique, socially driven, community collaboration platform, field tested in multiple locations and scenarios throughout Europe. The bulk of the project involved building and field testing the progressive web platform. I was also responsible for presenting the solution to the RICS Disaster Management Commission, Northern Ireland Regional Community Resilience Group, Dublin CC, Garda Siochana, PSNI, Irish/British/Dutch/German/International Red Cross Organisations.

Results: The project was commended by the EU commission and currently in the process of being commercialized. All partners recognized the company, and myself as one of the most valuable members of the consortium.

Technologies Used: Angular, BreezeJS, EF6, Ionic, JWT, D3.js, SignalR, Karma, Jasmine, Selenium, C#, WebApi, ASP.net, Azure VM/WebApps/Azuredb/CDN/Storage, EF, Git, TFS, Agile, distributed teams, Open Data, Semantic Web, CKAN, GIS, Open Layers, OSM, Google Maps API, Geoserver

May 2013 - October 2013

Spatialest. Senior Software Engineer

After my time freelancing and "up-skilling" I was ready to take up a new permanent challenge.

As well representing the company's EU interests I was also tasked with bringing my experience to bear on all sections of the company. My web, server, software architecture design, ALM

experience and general know-how have helped several internal commercial projects to leap forward.

Spatialest are a GIS and data analytics company with clients in Europe, but mainly in the US local government sector. As well as software engineering tasks on several internal projects, I have been instrumental in leading the company in using ALM tools (continuous deployment using TFS online, Trello for task management, Git for source control) and software best practices (continuous learning through 'brown bag' days, turning bespoke software into products using configuration, utilizing cloud infrastructure to reduce costs and improve performance).

March 2013 - May 2013

Freelance Developer

Clients: rebootauthentic.com, a-listblogging.com, teamthing.com

Challenge: After my successful time at a large corporate company (Kana/Verint), in a large international team, I decided to have a shot at freelancing while taking time to hone my web skills and look for the next permanent challenge.

To "up skill" I only took jobs where it would bring me into contact with the web technologies that I saw as increasingly important or where I needed to practice. To this end, I selected a number of clients where the jobs involved a large proportion of Javascript development. The projects that I selected also had some degree of cloud infrastructure, a subject in which it definitely pays to have a deep knowledge of what tools/technologies are available and how they can be used to a developers advantage.

Technologies Used: AWS EC2/CDN, Azure, Scalable architecture, C#, JQuery, Angular, Agile, PHP, MySQL, Postgres, Linux, Cloudflare.

October 2012 – March 2013

Kana/Verint (kana.com), Senior .Net Developer

Project Objectives: Rewrite a legacy CRM asp.net web application to utilize current web technologies.

Challenges: Understand, decode, and completely update a vast, successful, legacy web application in a short space of time, while working with partners from across Europe.

Responsibilities: Kana hired me to become one of the first senior engineers in the company's new .NET team. We were tasked with bringing a new flagship customer service product to market (Kana Express), based on a legacy application which the company had just purchased. I was heavily involved with the design and rewrite of the legacy CRM product to become scalable, multilingual and use current web technologies. Other responsibilities included mentoring newer, junior, members as they were hired and the team grew.

Results: We managed to successfully establish the company's 1st .NET department in the company and helped to integrate junior developers into the department. The product (http://www.kana.com/small-medium-business/customer-service) underwent a sea change from its previous form. It has been updated to be a single page application, incorporating new multilingual features, advanced social media functionality and is now being used by over 200 companies as their primary CRM tool.

Technologies Used: ASP.net, C#, .NET 4.5, Knockout.js, SQLServer, Agile, JIRA, TFS, Multilingual, Distributed Teams.

2008 - 2012

DFSolutions, Lead Software Engineer

After a successful and happy 8 years with AMT-Sybex I was ready for new challenges and new technologies. A local software company required a developer to learn and advance their flagship home entertainment system product.

Project Objectives: Create a stunning and unique WPF based user interface for the company's high end home entertainment system. Also to create a mobile app and API to control the entertainment system.

Challenges: Create a mobile api as an interface between the system and the new android mobile app. Push against the limits of WPF to create a smooth and visually stunning interface. Interface with multiple 3rd party APIs to integrate innovative functionalities.

Responsibilities: I was hired as the main developer for the company's products. This involved design & coding of company's flagship high-end media center product (PC and Android interfaces) using innovative WPF techniques. We worked closely with customers, sales staff, and dev ops to find innovative solutions to customer issues. Introduced advanced features to allow integration of 3rd party APIs such as Hulu, Imdb, Last.fm etc.

Results: Implemented radical changes to product scalability, internationalization, and client UX (Awarded SVI Trade Gold Award & HCD Trade Award 2011) and massively expanded client portfolio (exporting to over 16 countries).

Technologies Used: WPF, C#, VB.net, Java/Android, TeamCity, SQLServer, PRISM, Agile, MVVM, IOC

2001 - 2008

AMT-Sybex (amt-sybex.com), Lead Programmer

What started as a personal placement project (FDCS/Field Reach http://amt-sybex.com/fieldreach/) has now become the flagship product for the company with over 35,000 licences sold to companies such as TFL, Network Rail, NIWS, EDF etc.

Project Objectives: Design & implement a full lifecycle field-working data collection system.

Challenges: Design a system which was usable by field workers, working in a variety of conditions. Provide a workforce overview tool for supervisors. Integrate with several existing asset management systems. Push the limits of existing 'early' mobile technologies.

Responsibilities: This project started as a placement project during my time with the Rapid Advancement Programme). My day to day responsibilities included mobile, server & desktop coding and design, technical direction, mentoring developers, co-ordinating a team of 4+ developers, database design and implementation.

Results: Chief developer and designer for mobile workflow product now being used worldwide in companies such as PowerNi, TFL, Metronet, Met Police, Network Rail etc. Numerous successful full cycle workflow solution projects for large utility and private clients.

Technologies Used: C#, VB.net, VC++ (for windows mobile development), MSMQ, WCF, SQLServer, Oracle, Informix

Sept 2000 - Sept 2001

AMT-Sybex (amt-sybex.com), Software Engineer

After less than a year with the company I was promoted to Software engineer.

For this role, along with coding and database design and setup I had to produce requirements documents for several existing clients. Also during this time I had to further design and implement the prototypes that I had produced as part of my placement project. Other extra responsibilities during this time included the creation of testing and release procedures.

Jan 2000 – Sept 2000

AMT-Sybex (amt-sybex.com), Graduate Programmer

I joined AMT-Sybex as a placement from the Rapid Advancement Program. I impressed enough during my placement that I was immediately offered a graduate programmer role with the company. My work started with the company's award winning APHIS system, commissioned by the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture. The work involved debugging & testing in house applications. However, also during this time I was able to work on an R&D project which has now become one of the company's flagship products.